

The New Dominion *(1894)*

A play by
Clay Clement
Edited by
John M. Clement

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NOTES
John M. Clement

Clay Clement Sr. (1863-1910) was a noted actor, playwright, and producer from Illinois. He wrote four original full plays, and collaborated on two others. In addition he wrote one act plays and poetry. The various newspaper accounts and telegrams in the Geiger Family Scrapbook detail that he performed in most US states, Hawaii, Australia, and Europe. His birth name was Clement Laird Geiger. He had one son, Claudius Geiger, who also used the same stage name Clay Clement but is often called Clay Clement Jr.

This transcription of "The New Dominion" was made from a copy of the play in the University of Chicago Library Morton Collection. The original was pirated by either the Charles Morton Agency or the Chicago Manuscript Company. Clay Clement copyrighted but never published any of his plays and he kept careful watch on the manuscripts, loaning them only to friends. The originals have probably been lost, but the Clement family did have them in the early 20th century. His daughter in law Mary Frey copyrighted an unpublished play "Auf wiedersehen" in Jan 13, 1931 adapted from "The New Dominion" according to the Library of Congress "Catalog of Copyright Entries." The manuscript is complete, but was apparently hurriedly typed with many typos, type overs, and indistinct letters. Since it was probably pirated by a stenographer attending the play, it may represent an impression of one performance. However, it is also possible that it was hurriedly copied from a "borrowed" copy of the play. The anticipatory stage direction "Whistle ready" makes one think it was a borrowed copy, but the many spelling variants point to a transcription. The Dramatis Personae and Synopsis of Scenery are exactly the same as in a published playbill except for Mansion which is home in the playbill, and one typo. Other known copies are in the Sherman theatre collection of Southern Illinois University and the NY Public Library. Since the 1909 copyright law granted only a maximum of 56 years protection for published works, this play is definitely now in public domain.

In Mar 30, 1911 the NY Times reports a raid on the Chicago Manuscript Company as a test case of the Mar 4, 1909 copyright law. The plays were said to have been mimeographed from transcriptions made by stenographers.

This play has been called a "star vehicle" by the NY Times, Mar 30 1897, and was written to showcase the talents of Clay and his second wife, Karra Kenwyn. This play was Clay's greatest success but there seem to be no recorded performances after he died. Most reviewers, except for the NY Times critics, gave "The New Dominion" and Clay's performances rave reviews. The Apr 4, 1897 NY Times review was favorable and the reviewer was impressed by Clay's performance, but not the quality of the play itself. A subsequent review was extremely negative.

This transcription attempts to resemble the original as closely as possible, but with obvious typos corrected and uniform typography. Punctuation and spelling have been somewhat standardized. Each act was typed by a different typist with different indentation, spelling, line spacing etc. Some spelling was difficult to decipher because of the poor typing and the use of various dialects. Dialect was typed as exactly as possible but common words corrected to be the same spelling. The German in italics was standardized. The 1897 NY cast was added by the editor. Comments by the editor are in square brackets [].

Play source: Morton, Charles, Agency. Collection of American Popular Drama, [Box 42, Folder 20], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

SYNOPSIS

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Act I – Exterior of Randolph mansion - Mr. Edgar Randolph has been impoverished by the Civil War and his plantation has seen better times. He is trying to make money by taking in boarders, but he has attracted only one, Baron Hohenstauffen. Hohenstauffen is an amateur botanist and is collecting specimens around Virginia. Nobody knows that Hohenstauffen is a nobleman, and Marshall Boner makes fun of him and his pursuits, which he considers stupid. The good Baron sometimes has difficulty understanding colloquial English, which makes the situation worse. Everyone, except for Marshall Boner, considers him to be a true gentleman, and Hohenstauffen treats everyone with great courtesy. Boner used to court Martha Boland, Mr. Randolph's niece, but has lost interest, much to Martha's distress.

Hohenstauffen orders a wagon so he can travel back to Germany with his specimens. Charles McVeigh, a budding Washington lawyer, comes to announce that his father the judge is retiring to his neighboring plantation. Mr. Randolph is expecting his daughter to arrive by boat, but is told by Charles that Mrs. Josephine Dulaney, Randolph's niece is also arriving. Charles is apparently in love with Josephine who is the widow of Commodore Dulaney. When the boat arrives with Mrs. Harriet Randolph, Flora May Randolph, and Josephine, they are all introduced to Hohenstauffen. Hohenstauffen and Flora May exchange long looks. Mr. Randolph sends "Uncle Poly" to get the wagon and Hohenstauffen follows. As the family is entering the home for dinner, Hohenstauffen reappears saying he forgot to pay his bill. He sees Flora May again, and says he has changed his mind. He says he is a fool as he "omitted to collect one of the rarest of Virginia's flowers". Flora May offers to help him.

Act II – Large room in mansion - It is the Fourth of July and Mr. Randolph is sleeping through the racket of firecrackers and gun shots. Mrs. Randolph is upset by the noise, but after waking her husband he tries to soothe her headache with a mint julep. Josephine has pulled a nasty prank on Hohenstauffen by putting a live fire cracker in his pocket, which causes him distress. Josephine and Charles go for a row on the lake while Hohenstauffen stays in the house and attempts to teach Flora the German alphabet. He shows his love for her by asides and various actions which pass her unnoticed. The lesson is a comic disaster so they go for a walk around the lake. Boner enters, slightly drunk, much to Poly's disgust. He informs Mr. and Mrs. Randolph that his father had intended to foreclose the mortgage he held on the Randolph estate. Boner claims to be more lenient and offers to foreclose and then sell the estate back to the Randolphs for the mortgage amount at a lower interest. That way he can momentarily "honor" his father's wishes. He actually thinks this will endear him to Flora. Charles professes his love and Josephine claims that it is just selfish self interest. Flora, Josephine, and Hohenstauffen return to have some drinks with more flirting. Boner is drunk and obnoxious with nasty remarks about Flora. Hohenstauffen reveals how he meted out discipline in the Prussian army and indignantly defends her.

Act III – Same scene as Act I. Josephine realizes Flora is in love and is very cynical about it. Harriet talks to Flora, her stepdaughter, and tells her that Mr. Randolph mortgaged the homestead to pay for her education. Harriet asks Flora to be nice to Boner and at least not get engaged to someone else. Flora promises only this, but hates Boner and would never marry him. Hohenstauffen had sent a bouquet to Flora via Poly and when he sees Flora he gives the famous flower speech, comparing Flora to a rare flower, and asks for her hand in marriage. Flora is entranced, but remembering her promise refuses the offer. Poly brings an important letter to Hohenstauffen and he packs, in despair, to go back to Germany. Boner meets with Mr.

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Randolph and is nearly mollified when Randolph apologizes for the treatment on the previous day. Boner insists that Hohenstauffen leave and that Flora pay him more attention. Randolph is incensed by these ungentlemanly demands and tells Boner off. Boner then leaves for town to sell the Randolph estate. While Hohenstauffen is leaving Martha detains him and tells of her unrequited love. She also tells him about the impending sale, and that Flora May loves him dearly. Hohenstauffen then reveals his true name to Charles and engages him to buy the estate in his absence. Hohenstauffen leaves for a long stay in Germany on family business.

Act IV – Same scene as Act II - It is a cold snowy Christmas Eve and the Randolphs are preparing to leave the homestead on New Years day. They are happy that Boner did not keep the homestead, and they are ready to turn it over to Hohenstauffen. Mr. Randolph learns that Flora loves Hohenstauffen. Martha is determined to go back home to her parents after nursing Boner back to health. She is also tired of being mistreated by Mrs. Randolph. Josephine and Charles arrive, and they might be engaged if his latest case on hand works out. Martha has a fit which distracts the family. Hohenstauffen arrives and quickly he and Flora are happily engaged while the others are out of the room. The case on hand is now settled which also cements the engagement of Josephine and Charles. Hohenstauffen invites the Randolphs to visit Germany next summer. They celebrate around a punch bowl of eggnog and the curtain falls as they all including Poly raise their cups in toast.

Historical note: Hohenstaufen was the name of a line of German kings and Holy Roman Emperors during the High Middle Ages. Marshall was the maiden name of Clay's estranged first wife.



CLAY CLEMENT.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

NY cast (NYTimes Mar 30 1897)

Baron Franz Victor Hohenstauffen	—— Clay Clement
Mr. Edgar Norman Randolph	—— Jeffrey D. Williams
Mr. Marshall Boner	—— William Bonelli
Mr. J. Charles McVeigh	—— Carleton Macy
Napoleon LaFayette Randolph, “Uncle Poly”	—— George Berry
Mrs. Harriet Randolph	—— Lettie Allen
Mrs. Josephine Dulaney	—— Karra Kenwyn
Miss Martha Boland	—— Amalia Gardner
Miss Flora May Randolph	—— Rolinda Bainbridge

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY.

Act I. The Randolph Mansion on the St. James River, Time June, 1878

Act II. Hall in Randolph Mansion, Fourth of July of the same year

Act III. The day following

Act IV. Christmas Eve of the same year

Music at rise "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia."

Dies away after curtain is up and the dialog begins.

“THE NEW DOMINION.”

ACT I.

SCENE: A lawn extending down to the St. James River, about two hundred yards or more. Low row of willows along bank to give distance. Flat landscapes and low row of willows on opposite side of river. On the left a cypress hedge neatly trimmed with arched gateway. Fence goes up and across stage. R. 2E. a large oak tree with circular bench around it. On the right a large old colonial mansion, with portico and Corinthian columns, showing signs of age and some lack of repair. A rustic garden chair on the right, near porch and bench L. Sycamore, birch, oak and willow trees in landscape. Time, early in June. Some holly-hocks growing in base at back and along hedge.

(Martha discovered D. washing Bench.)

MARTHA

(Throwing down brush. Poly enters from above house with flowers in basket.)
What you been doin' Poly?

POLY

As the folks is comin' home, I just thought I'd gather a few flowers and decorate, ya dear dead an' gone Mistress Sarah's grabe.

MARTHA

That'll please Cousin Flo May and Uncle Edger.

POLY

I 'spect it will; and it'll be a comfort to Miss Josephine too, for she allus loved her Aunt Sarah.
(Comes down.)
You never did see Miss Josephine, did you? My, my, but she's a grand and lovely lady.

MARTHA

Did Uncle Edgar's first wife look anything like Josephine Dulaney?

POLY

Why, bless you child, she was her own blood-kin aunt-lation; and Miss Josephine is de libin', breathin' image of her— Lawdy me! Whenever I see Miss Josephine I 'magines dose days of pride and plenty is done come back again.
(Turns up.)

MARTHA

I can't see as Uncle Edger is lackin' in pride any even now.
(Takes pail to steps R. Bus. Cleaning steps.)

MARTHA

I don't understand Polly.

POLLY.

Chile, your two years' 'sociation wif dese premisis haint learned you much ob dere history.

(Turns and listens.)

All de fine 'provements dat was made here two years ago, when you Aunt Harriet came to take my Mistress Sarah's place was done on borrowed money, and while de 'provements hez grewed older an' older, de bebts has grow'd bigger and bigger wif confounduous interest; and now dat old Boner's dead, Massa Edgar need'nt look for no good from dat scalowag of a son.

(Go. L. C.)

MARTHA

(Jump up, Come C.)

I won't have you say nothin' agin Marshall Boner. He's good man to heart; an' if he didn't agin drink so much he's be just as good as any of the Randolphs.

POLY

(Turns, drops flowers.)

Stop, right dar, chile. Don't you go a likenin' no sich low flung lot as him, to de Randolphs.

(Pausing, go to her.)

I knows berry well what's de matter wif you. Yo' po' hard-working' white chile, he's lookin' higher'n you. He's settin' his cap for Missey Flo May'.

(Martha Turns.)

Dar now, don't yo' go into not tantrum. I knows, fo' wat I heard Mis' Harriey say'n yistiddy.

MARTHA

What did Aunt Harriet say?

POLY

Dat Mis Flo May might sabe de ole home yet.

(Goes L. and picks up flowers.)

MARTHA

Did she say that?

(Poly nods his head.)

But you knew, Uncle Poly, Marshal Boner was my first sweet-heart.

POLY

Course I does chile, and hit was reported dat him an yo' was begaged to git married.

MARTHA

Yes, an' I was so proud, in spite of their jokes, but now-

POLY

Der deh, now chile, wipe you' eyes out and don't cry. De folks will be he'h on de boat soon, an' who can propesy dat de'h won't be some mo' boders come wif dem. Mars' Edgar done had an addvertisementt een de Washington papers for summer boders over since las gone March.

(Arranges flowers.)

MARTHA

(At work again on stoop.)

And we've only had one lonesome, half lunny German, fir all that.

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POLY

Don't you foou yo'self bout dat man bein' lunny. He's only a triffle excentracious, but he's de mos' perfectest gem'ln dat's come to dis heah mansion fer many a day.

MARTHA

He ees mighty polite, but I can't understan' half that he sez.

POLY

Nuther can I understand what he sez, but dehs a deepet familiarity dat I'se coultivatin' wif his hafe collers.

(Laughs to himself.)

Hits easy to see dat he'a a man of quality.

MARTHA

(Turning from work.)

I heyrd him say dis mawnin' he reckond he'd go away today, when he heyrd de kin folks wus comin' home.

POLY

(Rises.)

Lawdy sakes! I'se powerful sorry to heahr dat. Whar's he at now?

MARTHA

(Working.)

O, he's out in the woods, or up de river hintin' specimens as he sez. No one with right gumption would go totin' round flowers an'rote, an'sich stuff. I tell yo the man's not right.

POLY

(Goes to her.)

Why, chilem dat man' a botanicalis, an' it takes de smartest sort o' man fer dat. Yo's so under-cultured, chile. Dat's de reason yo' tink mr Hoedstoffles is lunny.

(Up stage.)

MARTHA

Why his name ain't Hoedstoffles.

(Enter Marshall Bonner L. U. B.)

BONER

Whose name ain't Hoedstoffles? Helloe, there, Martha! Who's is Hoedstoffles?

(Martha tides herself R.)

POLY

Mr. Hoedstoffles is de boder.

BONER

(C.)

Oh, is he? Wellm just you mosy out there and put my horse out of the flies and give him a hand'ful of hay.

(Sneeringly.)

If you keep any such luxuries for critters on this plantation.

POLY

(Goes to L.)

I'll cut him a arm full o' nice fresh clover, Marse Boner?

(Turns)

No gent'lmans' beast would eat hay dis time o'y. Luxuries for the critter!

(Exit. L.)

MARTHA

(Running over to Boner.)

O, Marshall!

BONER

For the land's sake! Don't dirty by bran new Marsales vest wit your wet hands! Haven't you got no sense?

MARTHA

There, don't get mad, Marshall. I firtot 'bout am ands bein' wet. I was so glad to hev you come over to see me, and all rigged out so beautiful, too.

BONER

Well, I like your impertinence! No, thank you. I'm here to see the old man on business, and to have a look at the girls when they come.

(Goes to bench L. and sits.)

MARTHA

Oh, then it wasn't t' see me you come over?

(Fiercely.)

You never come over any mo' to see me.

(Sets pail down on steps.)

BONER

Yes I do. Now don't be a fool and show every nigger on the place that you love me and that I'm a brute. You women't got no sense, nohow.

MARTHA

Yain't no lack of sense makes us love men like you. We know better, only we can't help it.

BONER

You needn't get insulting about it. I ain't hankering after your love.

MARTHA

Yes, but was wunst, when I fust come heh from the mountains. You needn't put on no airs ez if I was running after yo' fer nothin', Marhall Boner. You used to come over nearly every evenin' and set to me in regular sweetheart style 'til everybody laughed at me an' shamed me cause you were my first. You want ashamed then. You said you'd make them laugh another way, an so you have. There's no fun in their laugh now. There's scorn an' hate, and I can't stand it no longer. I'm goin' back to my Paw in the mountains.

(Sobbing.)

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BONER

I wish to the lord you would.

MARTHA

No, I'd kill myself before I'd go back there now.
(Still sobbing.)

BONER

Well, I don't know oz anybody'd cry themselves to death if you did.

MARTHA

Oh, Marshall! I can't live without your love; and you shan't love nobody else.
(Kneels to him.)

BONER

(Repulses her.)
Your're a fool.

MARTHA

I reckon I am, but a woman's never sich a fools as not to know when the man she loves is thinkin' about another woman.

BONER

What do you mean?

MARTHA

You know mighty well what I mean. You're thinking about my cousin, Flora May. But don' yo' think you'll git her for she don't care for you one bit. An' if she did, I'll soon tell some things that'd open her eyes.
(Goes R.)

BONER

(Rises.)
Look here, you infernal idiot, if yo' open yo' mouth to anybody around hehr, you'll never do it a second time, do yo' hear?

MARTHA

I'd tell 'em, if I died for it.

BONER

You dry up, right now, or I'll make you!
(Enter Hohenstauffen at arch; L. U. E. with basket of specimens, etc. Hears last few words and drops everything but large root. B.&M. both turn astonished.)

MARTHA

The boarder!

BONER

Well, what are you doing here Hodestoffles or whatever your name is?
(Goes L.)

HOHEN

(Comes C. XL.)

I was botanizing! I would first call your attention to the remarkable size and texture of this root, I have me here. Comin across the pasture I was pursued by a cow. When she succeeded in getting uncomfortably near, I knocked her down with this. I intend to preserve it, as I think it would be equally efficacious with dogs, Mr. Boneyrd or whatever your name is.

MARTHA

Mr. Hohen—Hohen—

HOHEN

Hohenstauffen, my child.

MARTHA

Mr. Hohenstauffen,-

(With effort.)

you're acquainted with Mr. Boner, ain't you?

HOHEN

I have never had the honor of a formal introduction. I am glad to know you sir, and I trust in the future you will not misconstrue my present informality.

BONER

You're one of them botanists, ain't you? It doesn't pay very much does it?

HOHEN

O, I don't know, I find it quite convenient some times to have a root like this by me.

BONER

Ha! Ha! Yes, when you meet a cow!

HOHEN

Ya, and such like!

(To Martha.)

My child, will you please inform Mr. and Madam Randolph that I shall go today away.

(Enter Poly L. U.)

MARTHA

Yes, Sir.

(Hohen detains her till Poly starts, then Martha. Exits with pail into house.)

POLY

Marse Marshall, I'se done put yo' hoss up and giv' him a fine feed o' clover.

HOHEN

All right. That's a god old man.

(Sits L.)

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POLY

(Contemptuously.)

Yes, an' dat's a mighty cheap feed o' new clover.

HOHEN

(Seeing Poly going.)

Oh, Emperor, will you kindly have a wagon ready after lunch? I would go by the station.

(As Poly starts gives him half dollar.)

POLY

Wif de greates' celarousness, Sah,-

(Turns and bows as Hohen give money.)

Lawdy me, Sah! You'se too generous to po' ole Uncle Poly. Tain't ebery day dat a real sho'nuf gent'lman stops at dis heah mansion since de wo'.

HOHEN

Emperor, you overcome me. It give me pleasure to pay tribute to so gracious a monarch.

(Turns to specimens which he dropped on entering, and kneels down to arrange them again in basket.)

POLY

(Aside L. U. E.)

Oh, gracious Peter! I wonner ef dat deh pernurious speciment of post-pelamite white trash done hoah'd what aat white gent'im call me— Gracious Monarch, Oh!

(Exit hurriedly L. U. E.)

BONER

(Seated on Bench L.)

Are you going away on the twelve-thirty express, Sir?

HOHEN

That is my intention.

BONER

Well, you'll have to git a gait on you, or by the time you git a snack, it will be all you can do to make her.

HOHEN

(Not understanding him.)

Which was that you have said?

BONER

(Laughing superiorly.)

I say, you'll have to git a gain on your or you'll miss the train.

HOHEN

(Rises and puts basket on chair R.)

I would sooner walk as go on that little gig. I shall go by the wagon in. I have my cases of specimens to take with me.

(Wipes hands with handkerchief)

BONER

You didn't mean to say you're goin' to pack all that stuff you've been gatherin' up?

HOHEN

And why not, pray?

(Dusts shoes with handkerchief.)

BONER

Well, I don't want you to take any offence at it, but it seems such a waste of time for a gown up man to fool with such things, unless of course, you're a doctor. It don't bring in no money, do it?

HONEN.

No, no money, no!

(With contempt.)

BONER

Then pardon my inquisitiveness if I ask you to explain in what the SAM HILL good such a fool study botany is.

(L. C.)

HOHEN

(Looks at him, then after pause takes spray of goldenrod from basket and walks over to Boner.)

My friend, here is a plant that is found along every stream, in every valley, on all the hill-tops of your great country, from the lakes to the gulf, from ocean to ocean. It is found in the park of the millionaire, and is plucked at the roadside by the beggar, in equal perfection.

BONER

What is it?

(In astonishment.)

HOHEN

Herr Gott! Do you not know? Why dat is the golden rod, your nations' floral emblem.

BONER

Oh, yes, I've often seen it growin'.

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HOHEN

But in all your life you never studied it, one minute. Well, I am through of you.

(Turning away.)

But let me endeavor to answer your question once yet. My American friend, it is my belief that the study of botany elevates the mind, purifies the heart, enables the soul, and makes it possible for man to see mirrored in the mighty and beautiful bosom of Nature the loving features of a kind God.

BONER

Well it's strange what one man'll find where another can't see a mite!

HOHEN

Dat's all in your eye, my friend.

(Mr. Edgar Randolph appears at door end and comes out on porch.)

RANDOLPH

Ah, Mr. Hohenstauffen, you are the very gentleman I wish to see. Martha tells me you purposed going away today.

(Come down steps and sees Boner.) (Boner rises.)

Why, Mr. Boner, good day.

BONER

(Comes C.)

How do you do, Mr. Randolph.

RANDOLPH

How are all the folks over your way?

BONER.

Right well, I thank you. I just thought I'd take a run over and have a talk with you and the folks. Is Mrs. Randolph at home?

(X. to house.)

I'll go in and pass the time of day with her, while you see Mr. Hohenstarffen here.

(Goes up steps.)

We've been having quite an argument on bontany, haven't we, Sir?

HOHEN

Yes, we were getting quite learned.

BONER

I'm downright sorry he's going away.

(To Randolph)

RANDOLPH

Yes, we were getting to all regret his departure heartily.

BONER

Hespecially the landlord.

(Laughs)

I tell you eery little helps these hard times. Ha! Ha! I 'spose I'll see you again before you get started.

(Exit into house R. Laughing at his speeches, Mr. Randolph shows signs of chagrin and Hohen notices this.)

RANDOLPH

My dear Sir, that young man means all right; he is at times a trifle careless of the feelings of others. I do hope he did not offend you, Sir.

HOHEN

Not at all, my dear host. He could not offend me. I am a naturalist.

RANDOLPH

You see, Sir, in recuperating from the devastations of war, we could not construct our social edifice entirely of granite. Material such as we would have selected was scarce, and that which we used was often thrust upon us.

HOHEN

Well, still it is a consolation to know that bricks can be made out of mud and song of a —— the song of a —— what do you call dat bird? – now, Oh, yes, the Jackas is sweeter than no music at all.

RANDOLPH

Well, Sir, we had both of these useful articles to deal with, in a social and political way, as well as some others, still more difficult to handle. But now energy and wealth are coming among us, and many of our old families, temporarily embarrassed by the way, are returning to their original seats. The worthy now will survive and blend in with the tried and noble old; and even with my dim eyes I see the New Dominion, proud and worthy as the old.

HOHEN

But I shall be late I have barely time to have my lunch and attend to my luggage.

RANDOLPH

Has a gig been ordered, or will you go down on the boat?

HOHEN

I shall go by the cars in, thank you. I all see you once yet before I away go.
(Exit into the house)

RANDOLPH

Most assuredly, Sir. I have a sickening fear that this family will be numbered among the unsuccessful, and you, old home, where our generations of Randolphs were born must pass from my control before my mission is accomplished and my eyes closed. I don't dare to think of it.
(Sits on bench)

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POLY

(Entering breathless C.)

Oh, Marse Edgar! For de Lawd's sake, Marse Edgar, Yo' can't guess in a year what I'se gwine to tell yo' I know yo' can't.

RANDOLPH

I'm in no humor for guessing. Is the boat in sight?

POLY

No Sah, dat's nuffin' like it. I'll just gib you a little hint to put yo' on descent. Yo' know ole Marse Thomas McVeight's plantation five miles up de ribber?

RANDOLPH

Of course I do.

POLY

What yo' think's gwine to happen hehr?

RANDOLPH

Not to be sold?

POLY

Well, I jest reckon not. Won't yo' gress? Marse Eggert? Marse Eggert? Now please, Suh, jes try one more.

(Randolph show impatience)

Well, den, I's gwine to tell yo'. Marse Thomas McVeigh is goin' to regin from de Circuitions Supreme Court ob de Unites Statad and come down hear t' live fo' good nah' all? Deh, now.

RANDOLPH

You don't say so.

POLY

Yes I does, Suh.

(Looking off)

And heah's young Marse Chawles his 'elf, verify my asservations.

(Enter, U. E. J. Charles McVeigh, Exit Poly)

CHARLES

How, do, Mr. Randolph. I'm delighted.

(As he enters)

RANDOLPH

Well, this is an unexpected pleasure, indeed. How do you do?

CHARLES

I'm quite well, I thank you, Mr. Randolph. It's a great comfort to see you looking so well and compliment to the climate on the James, which proves that father has just made one of the wisest decisions since he's been on the bench.

RANDOLPH

And what is that, Charles?

CHARLES

To leave it and come down here and spend the rest of his days in peace on the old homestead.

RANDOLPH

Is the judge quite well?

CHARLES

Yes with the exception of an occasional attack of that aristocratic trouble, gout. He doesn't mind that though. I think he's secretly proud of it, and in his most painful moments I've often hear him mention your name.

RANDOLPH

Charles, the law and the city are making a complete vagabond of you. But seriously now, tell me the news. How do you get on with the legal profession?

CHARLES

I couldn't have done more. I've hanged one man and got a life sentence for another.

RANDOLPH

Well, we'll have to put you up for prosecuting attorney of the county.

CHARLES

Oh, Lord bless you, Mr. Randolph. I was defending these two chaps.
(Both laugh heartily.)

RANDOLPH

Ha, ha! But what brings you down from the city, Charles? You must make your home with us while you are in the country.

CHARLES

A thousand thanks; I shall be only too happy. The truth is, father thought the Washington bar could spare me for a few weeks, so he sent me to look over the old place, and make an estimate of the improvements needed. I hear your daughter, For a May, is coming home today, and

(Hesitatingly)

Mr. Josephine Dulaney is coming with her to spend the summer.

RANDOLPH

What a fortunate accident! It is quite possible now that my niece, Mr. Josephine Dulaney, might give you some valuable suggestions on the subject of your visit. You don't think of extending your improvements to the extent of undertaking matrimony?

CHARLES

The Judge gave me carte blanche.

(They laugh.)

But speaking of that, I always considered that the Commodore's blue cloth and fierce hat cut me out there.

13. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

RANDOLPH

The Commodore came of a family fine and was a perfect gentleman.
(Whistle ready.)

CHARLES

He was a stoical old sea dog, to start for a cruise in the South Seas two days after his marriage with such an angel as Josephine. I must admit, however, that it was very polite in him to make her a widow before he came back. Had it been I now, there would have been Mrs. Commodore in the South Seas to smooth my pillow.

(STEAM BOAT WHISTLE BLOWS. MUSIC.)

Lord, here's the boat! How will I explain my presence here?

RANDOLPH

Say nothing at all; it will explain itself. Harriet! Harriet! Come quickly! The boat is here. Run on down to the landing, Charles; I will wait for Harriet.

(Charles Exit L. U. E.)

God bless my sweet Flora May! My heart beats as fast as when I went to meet her mother when she was my young bride.

(Harriet enters from house, followed by Boner and Martha somewhat tidied up.)

RANDOLPH

(To Harriet.)

Come, come, Harriet or we shall not be there before they land.

HARRIET

Sakes alive, Mr. Randolph! There'll be no harm in that. My soul is flustered out of me getting ready for them. Come along Mr. Boner, the ladies will be glad to see you. Good heavens, Martha, where are you going?

(Martha down R.)

MARTHA

I was jes' goin' down to the landin' to see Cousin Flo May and Mis' Josephine. Oh, Aunt Harriet, please may'nt I go?

RANDOLPH

Why, certainly child, come right along!

HARRIET

She will do nothing of the kind, if you please, Mr. Randolph. Do you think I'll have her scandalize me before the whole community? Go right back into the house, you foolish child. You'll see your cousin and Josephine in good time.

RANDOLPH

(Impatiently)

Well Harriet, come, come! I can't wait any longer.

(Exit L. U. E.)

HARRIET

Mr. Boner, give me your arm.

BONER

We'd better make haste or we won't be there before the land.
(Exit with Harriet talking.)

MARTHA

(Watching them off.)
Why don't she give me some better clothes, if she's ashamed of me. God help me, I'm ashamed of myself.
(Sinks on bench crying. Hohenstauffen enters with two large cases, valise, hat box, canes, and traveling rug.)

HOHEN

All gone to the boat, I suppose. I hope the Emperor hasn't forgotten my wagon. I have only five and twenty minutes to overtake the cars. I wish I could get away before they return.

(Laugh heard outside)
Those giddy school girls have lost their charm for the old German philosopher.
(Hears Martha sob.)
Herr Gott! Was ist das?
(Sees Martha and goes to her.)

Why, my poor child, what is the matter by you? Can I do anything for you?

MARTHA

Oh, no, Mr. Hohenstauffen.
(Rises and crossed R.)
I'm only so unhappy.

HOHEN

I am very sorry for dat.

MARTHA

God bless you, Mr. Hohenstauffen, I'm sorry you are going away. You've always been kind to a poor ignorant girl and I pray you may always be happy.

HOHEN

Thank you, my child. On the table in my room you will find a little present I have left for you.
Ach, my child.
(Extends hand respectfully.)

MARTHA

Goodbye, Sir.
(Exit quickly into house, still sobbing)

HOHEN

Gott helfe Ihnen mein armes kind! Ach! Was fällt dich ein, Hohenstauffen? Was fällt dich ein, du Esel!
(Drying eyes, laughter heard, music lively till all on.)
Ach gut, they are here!

15. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

CHARLES

(Outside)

I give you my word, I didn't hear of your coming today until Poly told me.

JOSEPHINE

(Outside)

Now, Charley, Charley.

POLY

(Outside)

I no'm, dat's de libin' trufe, Miss Josephine.

(All laught heartily.)

(All enter, Randolph, Flo, Boner first, then Poly, with two grips, then Charles with Jos.
And Mrs. Randolph, Boner sits R. Ran goes L.)

RANDOLPH

Come right into the house, folks.

(Sees Hohen.)

Upon my word, Sir, I ask your pardon most humbly.

HOHEN

Do not mention it, sir, I ask I'm gone.

RANDOLPH

Stop a moment, Sir. Here Poly, hurry on to the conveyance with Mr. Hohenstauffen's portmanteaus.

POLY

Yes sir.

(Poly loads up with grips and hurries off. Leaves hat box. Characters discovered thus:
Boner R. near house, then Flo, Charles, Jos. and Mrs. Rand. L., near tree, Hohen and
Ran. C.)

RANDOLPH

Allow me, Mr. Hohenstauffen to present to you my daughter, Miss Flora May Randolph.

HOHEN

(After a slight pause, looking at Flora)

I have the pleasure, Miss Randolph.

(Slightly lingering look as he raises his eyes to hers. She extends hand and he takes it.)

RANDOLPH

My niece, Mrs. Josephine Dulaney.

HOHEN

(Crossed and takes proffered hand.)

Madam.

JOSIE

I am very please to meet you, Mr. Hohenstauffen.

Right: Karra Kenwyn - Jul 6, 1900 The Sunday Oregonian

HOHEN

I thank you Madam.

(Mrs. Randolph bows)

Good morning Madam Randolph.

HARRIET

Good morning, Sir.

JOSIE

This is Mr. Charles McVeigh, Mr. Hohenstauffen.

CHARLES

Glad to know you, Sir.

(They take hands.)

HOHEN

And I you, Sir.

RANDOLPH

Mr. Hohenstauffen, you have met Mr. Boner?

BONER

Oh, yes, we know each other from away back, don't we, my botanist friend?

HOHEN

(Who has been look modestly, but silently at Flo.)

To be sure we don't- which is't? Good bye, my dear host, good bye to all.

(to L.)

All!

I wish you all

(To Flo. again)

a happy, happy summer.

(Almost turns again to Flo., then pulls himself together and exit. All after him call Good bye, Bon voyage, etc.)

RANDOLPH

A safe trip, Sir, and a hearty welcome when you return.

(Mrs. Randolph crosses R. to porch.) (Josie and Chas. converse earnestly, Josie throwing kiss after Hohen.)

BONER

(To Flo who has been absorbed in a demure manner with Hohen.)

He's a queer chap! I wish he'd have stayed a few days longer. We could have had not telling's the fun at his expense.

RANDOLPH

My sweetheart, he is a perfect gentleman.

(As Randolph speaks and comes down, Flo runs into his arms and tenderly flings her arms around his neck.)



17. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

FLORA

Oh, you darling, dear old Pa'. I am so happy to be home again.
(They go up.)

CHARLES

(To Josie)
Well, you needn't have stared the old man out of countenance.

JOSIE

I'll send you right back to the Judge, in Washington, if you say another word.

HARRIET

Walk right into the house, folks you must be mighty hungry.

JOSIE

Aunt Harriet, you have an insight into the human organism that is really phenomenal. I am as hungry as a wolf.
(Crossing to right, Boner and Mr. Rand. Enter house.)

CHARLES

I have the appetite of a lamb myself.
(Josie enters house.)
Wait, Josephine, you certainly haven't the heart to eat without me.
(Exit into house.)

RANDOLPH

Come right into the house, honey, and your Pa'll make you a nice mild mint julep.
(Going.)

FLO

Oh, pa, I haven't seen a mint julep since I left Virginia.
(They enter into house laughing. Music. After a slight pause Hohen enters L. U. E. with hat box, looks about, sets down box and goes to door hesitatingly and knocks. Randolph comes to door and is greatly surprised at seeing Hohen, who steps off porch at C.)

RANDOLPH

Why Mr. Hohenstauffen, what has happened? Have you forgotten anything?

HOHEN

(With some hesitation.)
Ya, ya, Sir- In the exceptional excitement of my departure I omitted to pay my bill.

RANDOLPH

Well, upon my word, Sir, I had forgotten it, too. But you needn't have delayed for that, or you could have sent it back by Poly.

HOHEN

Oh, Sir, I insist that I should now pay. Ten days, -just twenty dollars – No? Yes?

RANDOLPH

Exactly. Thank you, Sir. I'm very sorry you have been put to this trouble.

HOHEN

Oh, no trouble at all, no trouble.-

(Trying to get a glimpse of Flo in house.)

POLY

(Calling outside.)

Sorry to sturb you, Marse Joedestoffles, but you'se gwine to miss yo' train.

(Hohen shows little heed of warning.)

RANDOLPH

I fear you will—once more, good bye.

(Takes H's hand and clasps it warmly with slap.)

HOHEN

(Is recalled to himself by action, brings down hand with same action.)

Good-bye, Sir.

(Picks up box, starts. As he does so, Flo comes to door and sees who it is.)

I'll not see her more! I'll shall not see her more!

FLORA

Good-bye again, Mr. Hohenstauffen.

(Music changes time quicker till curtain. As Hohen hears her voice he drops box quickly and starts as if possessed by a sudden idea.

HOHEN

Ach Gott!

(He turns and sees Flo.)

RANDOLPH

What is it?

HOHEN

I was forget, for— there is no use. I cannot go! I cannot go! Just to think! I shall be compelled to disappoint Emperor Napoleon!

FLORA

Why! What have you forgotten?

HOHEN

I have omitted to collect one of the rarest of Virginia's flowers. I never thought about her—it-it! till this last minute.

19. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

FLORA

Oh, a botanical specimen; let me help you find it.
(Crosses to Hohen.)

HOHEN

If you assist me, I cannot fail.

RANDOLPH

(On porch.)

Walk right into the house. We'll all be too happy to have you return, and I hope it will take you a long time to find your flower.

(Exit into house)

HOHEN

It may take me all summer.

FLORA

I'm glad that you have forgotten something-

(Starts, then turns C.)

Come right in.

(Exit into house, turning again at door and showing embarrassment.)

HOHEN

Oh, Flora! Oh, what a damned fool I am!

POLY

(Hurriedly entering.)

Marse Hoedstoffles, dis ones de las' livin' minute! Your train es loss ef yo' don't fly dis bery second.

HOHEN

(Turning with determination and taking him by wrist.)

Emperor, don't excite yourself; there is a dollar; I shall not require that wagon this summer.

(Exit calmly into house with military stride, Poly stupefied as Hohen turns away from Poly.)

C U R T A I N .

“The New Dominion”

ACT II.

Scene: Large hall in the Randolph mansion. L. in flat French windows reaching to floor, arch and hallway R. in flat. Sideboard between windows and arch, Large door R. 3E. Large old fashioned fireplace (no fire) L2E. with fancy screen fitted in grate opening. Door L.3.E. Staircase winding up L.2.E. with landing about 4 feet high, where stairs turn off stage. Banisters, mantel, etc. delicately decorated with bunting and a few flags. Small dining table 3x4 feet R.C. with three dining room chairs. Before curtain rises several shots are fired and a bunch of fire-crackers discharged, during which the orchestra plays (Star Spangled Banner) and continues after curtain rises, until dialogue begins. Mr. Randolph discovered sitting L. in large arm chair asleep with handkerchief covering his face. Poly comes hurriedly down stairs, rushes towards window and sees Mr. Randolph.

POLY

(As he descends steps.)

Hehr I ese missin' de whole Fourth of July.

(Sees Randolph asleep)

Oh. Ef Gab'lel'd happen to toot his hwon, when its time fo' Mass Edgar's nap, I'se a feered he's gwine to miss de resurrection gathering.

(Crackers.)

But I ain't gwine to miss dat next blas o' fire-crackers.

(Exits through windows) (Mrs. Randolph enters down staircase, languidly calling to Mr. Randolph)

HARRIET

Mr. Randolph. Mr. Randolph. Do you hear me?

(Sees him.)

Well bless my soul, if that man isn't asleep in all this bedlam.

(Goes over to him, takes handkerchief off and slightly shakes him.)

Mr. Randolph, how can you sleep with all this terrible racket?

(Randolph starts, wakes, feels for handkerchief, rubs eyes, etc.)

RANDOLPH

I can't my dear, I can't. What is it?

HARRIET

What is it? Didn't you hear them shooting those terrible fire-crackers? And directly under my window.

RANDOLPH

Did they? Well, that's too bad, Harriet. They won't do it any more, I hope.

HARRIET

(Petitionly.)

Its little you care for my comfort, Mr. Randolph

RANDOLPH

(Rising and going to her.)

Now, now, Harriet, don't be unjust. There's nothing I wouldn't do for your comfort.

HARRIET

(Pettishly.)

You think of no one but Flo May, and I could die of a broken heart in the streets for all you care.

RANDOLPH

There, there, now. You shan't die in the streets—not alone at any rate. Come along now, Harriet, come along, and I'll gather you some fresh mint and make a nice mint julep. Come along.

(Crackers. Exit with Harriet she protesting. Loud laughing outside, as a firecracker is discharged. Enter Hohenstauffen much agitated R.3.E. holding coat pockets followed by Jessie, Chas., and Flora.)

HOHEN

Ladies, Ladies, I beg of you, do not blow me out. It is dangerous to explode dose crackers in one's pocket when he don't know it.

(Empties pieces of crackers from pocket which smokes. Comes L. followed by Flora.)

JOSIE

Oh, he'll always discover it.

(All laugh.)

FLORA

It is real mean of you, Josie. You've burned a hole in Mr. Hohenstauffen's pocket.

CHARLES

That's the effect money has on mine.

HOHEN

Oh, I don't care about that, no, no. I prefer my pockets dat way, but it is terrible on one's nerves to have dose unexpected explosion occur upon your person.

(Excitedly examines left pocket.)

JOSIE

Come, Charlie, let us see what effect a fire-cracker would have on your nerves.

(Crosses R. to him, attempts to light cracker. He retreats to step. They talk.)

FLORA

I think I shall have a shot at you, Mr. Hohenstauffen. Do you mind.

(Raising punk and crackers.)

HOHEN

I would not care, if you busted min on one thousand pieces.

FLORA

I 'spose not. Ha, ha. (They talk L.)

CHARLES

I tell you, these formal foreigners misconstrue such familiarities. If you most shoot fire-crackers off in people's pockets, I'll get an asbestos coat and you may indulge the propensity to your heart's content.

3. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

JOSIE

Oh, Charlie. You are entirely too considerate.
(They continue conversation)

FLORA

(To Hohen)
What does it mean if I can say “Ick leba die.”

JOSIE

(Hearing Flora’s German.)
What’s that? There’s something very familiar about that.

HOHEN

That is a kind of German fire-cracker. Your cousin exploded it in a more vital part than the pocket.

JOSIE

Pardon me, Mr. Hohenstauffen, but my experience has proven that the pocket is the most vital part of a man.

(Flora goes To table R.C. and talks to Chas. and Josie. Flo. dispenses with crackers and punk.)

HOHEN

(aside)
Well, den between them I am a dead man. I have it both ways. De German fire works in my heart and the American Fourth of July in my pocket.

CHARLES

Will you come for a little row up the shady side of the river?

JOSIE

Certainly, come along.

HOHEN

Pardon me, Madam, I am afraid you would explode one of dose crackers in the boat, and I would jump into the water before I could discover I was not shot.

CHARLES

(Crosses L. to him.)
Do as you please, but I can’t vouch for what Josie might do, from shooting a fire-cracker to swamping the boat.

(Aside.)
Think that’ll keep him at home.
(Going to door R.3.R. To Josie.)
I’ve a crow to pick with you.

[See: E. Cobham Brewer 1810–1897. Dictionary of Phrase and Fable. 1898.]
(Exits door E.3.R.)

JOSIE

You’d better come. I’ll promise to be good.

FLORA

I think not. You and Charlie go. Mr. Hohenstauffen has promised to teach me German. This is a good time to take my first lesson.

JOSIE

There couldn't be a better. From what I have seen you ought to get on well with the German—You take so kindly to it.

(Go to door R.3E.)

Tra la, good people, don't dwell too long on the verb.

(Suggestively. Exit door R.3E.)

FLORA

I wonder what he means.

HOHEN

I could not guess in a year—unless it is—Oh yes, Ha ha. Das ist gut. Das ist gut.

FLORA

What?

HOHEN

You have been making trifles out of me, ha, ha, ha.

FLORA

How?

(Confusedly.)

HOHEN

Das is sehr gut. You have studied German before. Und Sie haben nicht verstanden was ich eben gesagt habe.

FLORA

What are you saying?

(Still more confused and annoyed.)

HOHEN

Ich, Sie verstanden, gut gerreicht.

(Laughs.)

FLORA

You are making fun of me.

(Angrily)

I Shan't stay.

(Starts R. around table and goes up.)

If that's the way you teach German, Mr. Hohenstauffen, I don't care to learn.

(Goes to D. L.)

5. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

HOHEN

Do not go. Do not go. I did not take fun by intention. *Ach. Gut.*

(Flora comes down L. slowly.)

I was not laugh by you. No sir, I was laugh by myself. I would not laugh by you, Miss Flora. Before I would laugh by you, I would cut off my windpipes.

FLORA

Oh, I wouldn't have you do that.

HOHEN

I would not offend you for the world. I would break out my tongue if he would laugh by you. But you sure you know nothing of German?

FLORA

Nothing at all. I took French instead of German at the seminary.

HOHEN

Ach, Himmel. Was fur eine schule. Ah, the German is de most beautiful language in de whole world to make love by— *mit*—

(She turns to him.)

No—which to study botany by *mit*. De German is so more picturesque speech as de English.

FLORA

Do you think you could teach me enough this summer so that I could understand you when you speak it?

HOHEN

I could speak it in English, if you was a man.

FLORA

But I don't want to study English. I'm after the German now.

HOHEN

(Looks at her quickly, then aside.)

If you only know it, the German is after you.

(Extending hand formally.)

Come, Miss Flora, come sit yourself here down.

(Conducts her to a chair.)

And I will teach you of the German. We will begin by the alphabet.

FLORA

How jolly. It will seem like being a little girl again. I can remember studying my English alphabet when I was a little girl only so high, sitting on old black Poly's knee.

(Claps hand enthusiastically.)

HOHEN

(clasping hands same way.)

Ach Himmel, I wish I was dat old black nigger. What a pretty little girl you must have been—

(She looks at him.)

—be—was—been—what you was only so high. O, I love de little girls when they are only so high.

(Aside.)

And the higher they get, the better I love them.

(Going R. to table.)

FLORA

Well, bring your chair over here and let us begin. I'm anxious to get over the dry part.

HOHEN

(Getting chair, loosening collar.)

And I am dry to get over the anxious part.

(Hohen takes chair as if to go to remote part of room. Flora sees this and motions him to her side.

After slight hesitation he picks up chair and marches over with it. Seats himself with military precision.)

Now we begin—

(Business.)

The words of the German language, like your own, are composed of 25 letters, the first of which is—ah.

FLORA

Ah, indeed.

HOHEN

No, no, not “ah indeed”—*blos*—ah ah. That is the first letter of the German alphabet – ah.

FLORA

ah

(With great effort and precision.)

HOHEN

Dat is gut.

(With admiration and accidentally puts hand on her chair which he notices and removes with embarrassment. She does not notice this hand business, either here or subsequently.)

Then comes—bay

FLORA

Bay What?

HOHEN

Bay.

FLORA

Bay (With effort.)

HOHEN

Ze—

7. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

FLORA

What shall I say?

HOHEN

Not—"What shall I say."

(Puts up hand to restrain mirth)

Only ze—that is the third letter of the German alphabet— which by your language you would call —see—

(With great effort.)

FLORA

I see.

HOHEN

No, No, not "I see" —blos-only—ze. Erst comes ah, then comes –bay–, then comes –ze.

(Then spell it in German.)

Z—e—Ze.

FLORA

Oh.

(Full and round.)

HOHEN

No, No. O come later on yet. A, be, now if you please look me—Ze—Ze ts –ts. Try so hard, if you please.

FLORA

Ze—

(With great effort.)

HOHEN

Das ist sehr schoen—

(Hand business back of her chair)

Day.

FLORA

Day—

HOHEN

Gut. You catch him the first time. –a.

(Hand business as before—This time removes very quickly and shows annoyance at himself.)

FLORA

Why now you are beginning on our alphabet.

HOHEN

Oh no, *das ist Deutsch*—"ha" is German. A—what is the next letter under Day who by your language is called E.

FLORA

I don't know. Who is?

HOHEN

No, no, the letter—the letter is called E, but the English.
(Tapping arm of her chair.)

FLORA

Oh, E is A.

HOHEN

“O, E is A”. What is that now? O, E is A?

FLORA

I mean, A in German is E. in English.
(Putting his arm on chair to emphasize.)

HOHEN

I cannot tell you have me so twsited.
(Starts to put hand on chair, then thinks and begins to slap her hand abstractedly which is only on arm chair as he says A of the German. Then he discovers this and shows further embarrassment.)

FLORA

(As if to resume the subject)
A—what letter comes next.

HOHEN

What letter comes next?
(Turns to her in embarrassment.)
Wait a minute—ah, be, ze, day a. In German Oh yes –F.

FLORA

Oh, yes, F.

HOHEN

(In Despair)
There is no use, we will never lean it that way. Herr Gott. I have forgot it myself.

FLORA

I am afraid not, I am so stupid.

HOHEN

No, No, you are not stupid. It is I.
(She turns to him.)
I know not what the matter is by me. Before you came home I could speak very fairly English. It has almost entirely left me in the two weeks, now I am lost in German. Before the summer is over I shall be deaf, dumb and blind.

FLORA

Nothing of the kind, you speak English beautifully.

HOHEN

(Encouraged.)

You think so. I am so glad of that.

(Enthusiastically.)

FLORA

Couldn't we get on better with the conversational method?

HOHEN

Suppose we try.

(Rests arm on back of her chair.)

Oh if we could understand a little of the German, *blos ein wenig* only one.

(Notice hand and is embarrassed.)

It would come so leicht—the rest. Then you could understand what I would say to you, which by English would choke me and not come out at all.

FLORA

Well, say something to me in German and then translate it. Anything about the weather or any light commonplace phrase.

HOHEN

Ach, mein lieber Schatz— Oh, no, no not that. Here is one yet beautiful. *Sie sind für mich des Himmels licht.*

FLORA

What is that?

HOHEN

That is that you are by me the light of heaven is to the world— That is what I would say to you—and – and—

(Falls on knees, then quickly rises and rushes across R.)

Miss Flora, Oh, I'm crazy of myself.

FLORA

Why, Mr. Hohenstauffen, what is the matter?

HOHEN

Oh, I am all like Fourth of July and fire-crackers auf my inside. There is no use. We cannot stud our German to day. Fourth of July is not a very good day for the study of German. Come let us walk out of the river, and I will tell you of the German fatherland.

FLORA

What is the fatherland?

HOHEN

Was is des Deutschen Vaterland? [Inexact quote from Ernst Moritz Arndt poem]

Ist's Preussenland? Ist's Schwabenland?

Ist's, wo am Belt did Moewe ziecht,

On nein, O nein, O nein, O nein.

FLORA

That's so in English.

HOHEN

*Ach Himmel, sein Vaterland muss groesser sein.
Das ganze Deutschland soll es sein!
O Gott, von Himmel, sieh darein,
Und gib uns rechten deutschen mut,
Dass wir el lieben treu und gut!
Das soll es sein! Das soll es sein!
Das ganze Deutschland soll es sein.*

FLORA

That's very pretty, what is it?

HOHEN

That's is Fourth of July in German. Come, let us go out by the river near the water, near the cool, cool water, and I will tell you of the beautiful castles *am* Rhine. Oh, if you effer go there, you be the bell of Stuttgart where mein uncle lives. There you would soon learn to speak of the German.

(She takes his arm enthusiastically.)

Come, come, let us go. I am burning of fire and my brain is full of sky-rockets. Come Miss Flora, come.

(Exit door R.3 E., Boner and Poly enter through window.)

BONER

Where's the boss?

POLY

He was sleepin' right heah jes a minute ago. I 'spects Miss Randolph and the folks.

BONER

I've come over here to put a little life in things. I knew it would be mighty quiet. They're havin' a right smart celebration over at the city, I can tell you. I took a good hand at it while I was there.

(Showing bottle)

And in case of accident, I brought a little of it along with me.

(Go to side-board after looking around.)

POLY

Mars Boner, you jes keep on wif dat' er celembration, an' one of doe heah days you'll be at de head een' ob de procession, an' it ain't goin' to be no Fourth ob July procession nurther.

BONER

I don't want any of your advice. You go and find the boss and tell him I'd like to see him.

POLY

Yes, Sah.

(Starts up stairs. Poly stops on landing and looks at him.)

De Holy Scriptures has said "a word to de wise is sufficious", but a jackass will bray in the nawter.

(Exit R. up steps.)

11. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

BONER

(After taking drink.)

That's good liquor. Now, then I'm in condition to have a talk with my friend Randolph, and if he's got any sense, he'll accept my proposition.

(Hears voice and comes down R. Mr. Randolph and Harriet enter at door L.3. E. Randolph has a bunch of mint in his hand.)

RANDOLPH

Why, good day, Mr. Boner. I hope you're quite well.

(Shakes hands and goes up to side board.)

BONER

First rate, I thank you.

(Shakes hands with Mrs. Randolph.)

And how are you today, Mrs. Randolph.

HARRIET

I'm not as well as can be. I'm troubled with a headache.

(Sits on chair L.)

BONER

That's too bad.

RANDOLPH

Mr. Boner, we've just had a nice, light mint julep. I have some fresh mint here. Can't I make you one?

BONER

No, I thank you. I don't care for juleps. There's too much fodder and water in 'em for me. I prefer my liquors straight.

RANDOLPH

Just as you please. You'll find this very fair.

(Handing him decanter and glasses.)

But I'll have to join you if form only after my mint julep. Harriet, will you have any more?

(Puts a trifle of whiskey in considerable water in his own glass.)

HARRIET

No, I thank you.

(Languidly.)

BONER

Here's your good health, Mr. Randolph.

RANDOLPH

And yours, Sir.

(They drink.)

Won't you sit down awhile? The folks will be here in a few minutes, I presume.

(Designates chair L. of table.)

BONER

(Takes chair, Randolph walks about down R.)

Well yes, thank you. I will sit down. I want to talk about a little business matter and I reckon this would be as good a time as any.

(Boner is slightly influenced by liquor and is patronizing in his manner, thoroughly pleased with himself and good humored.)

RANDOLPH

(Walking about.)

Proceed, Sir.

BONER

You know Sir, my father left certain instructions in his will for me to follow?

RANDOLPH

I never knew this letter of your late father's will.

(With dignity.)

BONER

Indeed, why I thought father's lawyer had informed you fully.

RANDOLPH

He merely informed me that you had inherited, among other things, the mortgage notes for fifteen thousand dollars which executed to your father ten years ago. You must remember Marshall, when these notes were give interest rates were high, and I have found them no small burden.

(Sits at table R.)

BONER

I am surprised Mr. Butler didn't tell you the whole affair.

RANDOLPH

When he called on me early this Spring, he assured me of your intention to be lenient, and that you had no need of the money. I drew from that, you would be willing to execute new notes at a more reasonable rate on interest.

BONER

Well you're right.—

(Slapping hands.)

I am willing to do that.

HARRIET

You see, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Boner, you won't know how we appreciate your friendship.

BONER

Thank you. Don't mention it.

(Turning to her with extravagant graciousness.)

There's a matter, though, I scarcely know how to get at right,

(Hesitatingly)

so you will understand me exactly.

RANDOLPH

What is that Marshall?

13. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

BONER

Well, it's about the will— father's will.
(Drawling it out.)

RANDOLPH

The will.

BONER

Yes, you see father, you know was a good business man and hadn't much sentiment in him, as I have—
(These words to Mrs. Randolph.)

And he expected—to tell the truth—to own this plantation by now, but just as he had what he thought comfortable for a man to own, why poor paw up and dies.

(Turning to Mrs. Randolph.)

Now, Mrs. Randolph you know it's only natural for me to want to carry out his wishes.

HARRIET

Why certainly, Marshall. I honor you for it.

BONER

(He bows to her.)

Well, Lawyer Butler has showed me how the whole matter can be got around, so that I will be just the same as if extended the time by new notes— Straight out and I'll be carry out father's intentions too. I'd never rest easy, if I didn't do that.

HARRIET

To be sure you wouldn't. You're a noble son, Marshall.

BONER

Thank you, mam. Rather expressly directed in the will that the mortgage must be foreclosed at the earliest date. Well, Mr. Butler says it can be foreclosed and you can arrange to me buy it in, then I'll sell it right back to you for the fifteen thousand dollars, and take new mortgage notes at 6 percent in payment.

HARRIET

Oh, yes, how thoughtful.

BONER

(Waves a courtesy to her.)

You see, Mr. Randolph by that way, I'd be doing just as father directed, for I'd own the estate for a few minutes. See.

(Rises.)

RANDOLPH

(Rises.)

I see for a few minutes—yes.

(Thoughtfully goes R.)

BONER

And then I could do as I pleased with an easy conscience.

(To both. They sit again.)

RANDOLPH

That seems such a roundabout way to arrive at the same destination and then the expense of the foreclosure and the transfer. I can't—

HARRIET

I should think, Mr. Randolph, you would only be too thankful for such a generous proposition.

RANDOLPH

There, there, now Harriet. I'm sure Mr. Boner understands that I appreciate his generosity— only the unnecessary expense.

BONER

Butler'll have to do all the work. I pay him by the year anyway. It shan't cost you a cent

(Strikes table again.)

beyond the recording the new deed. Besides I'd be complying with father's wishes.

(To Mrs. R.)

HARRIET

There, now, Mr. Randolph. What have you to say?

(Triumphantly.)

RANDOLPH

Mr. Boner, I appreciate your liberal proposition, and I can only say I must be satisfied. I am sorry that your father and I could not have been better friends.

BONER

Well, there's no reason why you and his son shouldn't be—

(Rising.)

I like the Randolph family and I always like to visit here, especially since the folks came home.

(Going over L. to Mrs R.)

HARRIET

(Insinuatingly.)

Now, Marshall, we know which one of the folks you allude to.

BONER

(Insinuatingly.)

No don't you, Mrs. Randolph.

(Burst out laughing.)

By the way, I just feel like drinking to the health of the Randolphs.

(Go to sideboard and drink.)

RANDOLPH

(Who has been nervous during the allusion to Flo.)

Pardon me, Mr. Boner, for not offering you something.

BONER

(Going to sideboard.)

That's all right. Pardon me for helping myself—Ha, ha, ha, ha. A feller has no celebration but a little.

(Fill glass as before)

15. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

RANDOLPH

(Prepares his own as before.)

Certainly, Mr. Boner, a little celebration is always excusable. You don't care for anything, Harriet?
(Suggestively.)

HARRIET

(Rising and coming towards them.)

No, I thank you. When you have all finished, I'll carry Mr. Boner out and we'll find the ladies.

BONER

Well, here's to the Randolphys.

RANDOLPH

Thank you.

HARRIET

Thank you.

BONER

An, that's good. And now, Mrs. Randolph lets find the charming ladies.
(Offers arm gallantly as before.)

HARRIET

Come along Mr. Randolph.
(Exit Harriet and Boner L.3.R.)

RANDOLPH

Thank heaven, all our young men are not alike him. If they were, the pride and chivalry of Virginia would soon die out, and the grand old title of gentleman would become extinct.

HARRIET

(Calling off L.)

Are you coming, Mr. Randolph?

RANDOLPH

Yes, yes Harriet.

(Exits L.3.R. Josie laughs off R. and enters with Chas. through R. arch.)

JOSIE

And you really have the impudence to inform us that you're jealous of me.

CHARLES

Yes, and you know why.

(He enters first, goes down R. and crosses L.)

JOSIE

I do. It is because you have allowed yourself to believe that you have a title to me, by right of conquest. When you have been beat in every encounter, why you would have no reason to be jealous if I should get married tomorrow.

(He turns distractedly to her.)

Which I don't, for I know the story of the children and the fire, but some of them have to be roasted to a turn, while parboiling is sufficient to inspire a respect for heat. I flatter myself I belong to the latter class.

CHARLES

Honestly and seriously Josephine, I love you and want to make you happy.

(Kneels to her.)

JOSIE

Get up. Get up.

(Laughs. He gets up and throws his hat away and falls in chair.)

You probably love me, but it's yourself you want to make happy. Don't deceive yourself into any such ideas of unselfishness. What make a lover go about like a poor soul with a deranged digestive apparatus? Selfishness. He can't bear to think he has condescended to love a woman and the unappreciative female dares not to love him in turn. Why do they sometimes commit suicide? It is to rid the adored one of their presence? No it is to be reproach to her for her lack of appreciation. Your lover is the most selfish animal that lives. His vanity makes him believe that in him alone is the world of diversity, sufficient for any woman. He is jealous of the air she breathes—the roses in her garden—even the sun in the heavens. Such an emotion as this is not the noble, tender inspiration—love. This is selfishness and vanity. That's all, my boy, that's all. Now just make yourself a mint julep. Think it over while I'm gone.

(Exit arch R.)

CHARLES

(Alone)

That girl would make a devil of a lawyer. She could get a man a life sentence for even thinking of committing a crime. She's almost convinced me that I am a selfish cox-comb. If I really thought I was, I'd jump into the river.

(Pulling himself together.)

Oh, no. I'm not such a bad lot—not by a good deal—damn me. I'm a pretty good fellow. Have a drink with yourself, Charlie, old boy.

(Go to side board, take decanter and glass, go to table and sit back of it.)

JOSIE

(Outside.)

You must come in Mr. Hohenstauffen and have a nice cool mint julep.

HOHEN

(Josie, Flo, and Hohen enter R.)

Thank you just the same, but I do not think I would care for a mint julep.

FLORA

Oh you said yesterday, when I made one for you, that it was the greatest drink in the world for a botanist.

17. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

HOHEN

That was on account of the variety of vegetation it contained.

(She flirts, Chas. and Josie laugh to themselves.)

That was a beautiful drink. It was so pretty as a poquet. I could scarcely drink it for looking at it.

(Aside. She goes to sideboard, Josie R.)

I have saved the foliage and pressed it.

(Comes down R. and around table.)

(Back to audience C.)

Could I not now, without offending anybody, have some beer?

FLORA

(Rings bells on sideboard.)

JOSIE

(Aside to Hohen, beckons him over to her, he goes cautiously.)

For a might not like it—your refusing the mint julep.

POLY

(Answers bell and exits, returns in few seconds with bottle of beer.)

HOHEN

(Aside to Josie.)

So, you think so, eh.

(Aloud to Flora.)

Miss Flora, Miss Flora.

FLORA

Yes, Mr. Hohenstauffen

HOHEN

I have turned over my mind.

(Poly pulls cork.)

FLORA

How so?

HOHEN

I think I will eat a mint julep.

FLORA

Oh, I've ordered your beer now.

HOHEN

And you are not angry now?

FLORA

(Quickly)

Certainly not. I'll pour it out for you. Sit down.

(He bows to her.)

JOSIE

And I'll help her.
(Josie in R. corner, he bows to her.)

POLY

And I'se gwine to fetch a plare o' crackers.
(Exit door L.3.E.)

HOHEN

(Horrificed)
For *gut* sake, don't— I am exploded to pieces now with those crackers.
(Goes C. away from Josephine.)

JOSIE

Bless you man, they're to be eaten.

HOHEN

You wouldn't eat one for a thousand dollars.
(Still terrified.)

JOSIE

You don't understand. These are bread crackers.

HOHEN

It may have been terrible powerful yeast in the one you exploded in my pocket.
(Go to her R. Enter Poly with plate of crackers. Puts them on table)
Oh come, you call dose too crackers.

CHARLES

Certainly. Sit down, old man, and I'll have a drink with you.

FLORA

Now then, here's your beer, Mr. Hohenstauffen.
(Comes down R of table with it and sets it on table with left hand. Hohen offers seat to Josephine then to Flora. Enter Boner.)

BONER

There's something mighty comfortable about that—
(Throws hat at Poly, shows intoxication.)
I don't mind if I do. You know this is my second celebration today.
(Attracts attention of all just as Hohen raises glass of beer to his lips.)
My beautiful Miss Flora, won't you bring me a glass?

FLORA

(Pause)
Poly, take a glass to Mr. Boner.
(Whispers to Josie and both exit D.R.3.)

POLY

(To Boner, comes down reluctantly and savagely glaring hands him glass on tray.)
Heah's your glass, Sah.

19. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement
Right: June 10, 1900, "The New Dominion" picture
from the Sunday Oregonian

BONER

(Surprised and looks around.)

Your name ain't Flora, is it?

(Fills glass, Hohen and Chas.
exchange speaking glances.)

POLY

No Sah.

(Aside)

But you name be something else if Marse
Edgar done see de condition you'se in. He's
gone and drak dat whole flask of liquor I'll
bet.



BONER

(Meanly with intention to insult.)

The ladies pull out when I come, I see. Here's your health Hohenstofffen.

(Hohenstauffen has glass to lips and sets it down indignantly.)

Seems as if you and Charlie git along first rate with the gals. So well they pour out your drinds, and send
a nigger when I ask for a glass. Don't they Hohensteffer.

(Hohen is again about to raise the glass and set it down as Boner is about speak, but composes
himself and speaks to Chas., looking at beer critically.)

HOHEN

Mr. McVeigh, did you enjoy your row down the river?

BONER

Did you have a row down the river? Ha, ha. Who with? Not with Hohisstoffener, was it?

(Hohen trembles so violently that his beer spills from glass, which he sets down with difficulty.

After shaking beer from hand and deliberately wiping hads with handkerchief)

HOHEN

No, it was not, Mr. Boner. But I will tell you of a little row I one have when I was in the Prussian army. I
accommodated a low fellow by extending his leave of absence, when had over stayed his time outside of
the lines. I had no sooner done so when he became insulting because I reprimanded him. He was
somewhat in liquor and di much loud talk. He said he thought that I could whip him, because I have my
sword on—so I just take me my sword off, and give hit to the gentleman as he was there, and I take my
fresh friend by the nose with my fingers and thumb, and hive him sich as twist that his nose ran all over
his face with blood. *Pas auf mein freund. Pas auf.* He not stop crying till he was inside of the camp. Ha,
ha, ja.

(Trying to contain rage.)

BONER

Well, you needn't git you Dutch up here, friend, how we Stoffles and Miss Flora May Randolph don't
need to put on any of her poverty airs over me—fer she's no better than the rest of us. Thank you, Mr.
Stoffles.

(Strikes table with last three syllables.)

HOHEN

Well, I say she is

(Strikes table)

better than the rest of us. She is better than you be, or better than I be, or better than any other woman—man—

(Attempts to raise beer, but spills it with agitation.)

I do not consider me worth to untie her feet—shoes *und, Herr Gott*. As for you, you are not a gentleman, and I will meet up here anyhow with anything.

(Taking card from case deliberately.)

Und there is my card, if you cannot read it, eat it, smell it,

(Hurls it in his face.)

Hohenstauffen, sie dumbkopf, Hohenstauffen sie en fallspinsel, Ach Gott. Sis barnei vericht. Ich bin vertigo mit ihnen, fur immer.

(Exits through window hastily.)

C U R T A I N .

“The New Dominion”

ACT III.

Scene: Same scene as Act I. Flora and Josie enter from house, with arms about each other. Music for rise.

FLORA

Oh, Josephine, I'm distressed to death. I know that Mr. Hohenstauffen is deeply offended by the way Marshall Boner acted.

JOSIE

It was simply scandalous. That man is little less than a barbarian.

FLORA

The whole evening was ruined. And just to think none of Charlie's beautiful fireworks were set off.
(Sits on bench L.O)

JOSIE

We have nothing to regret, in that respect. Charlie's fireworks would have been tame, after Mr. Hoenstauffen's German pyrotechnic display.
(Laughs.)

I wouldn't have believed him capable of such a cyclone.

FLORA

Oh, you don't know him.

JOSIE

No, not as you do. He's a wonderful man, isn't he, Cousin.

FLORA

Poly said that it was something about me that started it. He scarcely spoke a word of intelligible English at breakfast this morning. I do hope he isn't so much offended that he will go away.

JOSIE

You couldn't drive him away with a pack of artillery. I know just this stage of the disease he is now passing through.

(Sits beside Flora.)

The more serious the opposition, the better. A man's affection for a woman is like a tree's relation to the earth. The more you lop off the branches, and hinder the external growth, the more it will spread beneath the surface, and the firmer it will root itself in the heart of old Dame Terra Firma.

FLORA

But you can trim a tree till it will die.

JOSIE

Yes, and there are some what grow so rapidly they will break down beneath their own weight. Just notice how I keep Charlie pruned off. If he can't stand the most approved scientific culture, I don't want him.

FLORA

Josephine, you are not in love.

JOSIE

Are you?

FLORA

Why, no. Of course not. With whom, pray?

JOSIE

Marshall Boner, of course.

FLORA

Thank you. It's a thousand times better man than he is—Oh.

JOSIE

Oh, then there is one?

FLORA

No, there isn't – I meant—
(Cross R. hurriedly.)

JOSIE

OH- o - o - o -

FLORA

Now, Josephine

JOSIE

Now, Flora May —

FLORA

(Embarrassed and hides head on Josie's breast.)

JOSIE

Well, upon my word, you poor little cousin. You'll have to take something for this or it will interfere with your growth.

FLORA

Take something—what?

3. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

JOSIE

A husband. It's an ancient remedy, but it's effectual, for all the world like the method of testing a woman for witch-craft. Suspecting of being possessed, they would tie a stone to your neck and throw you in the river. If you floated with stone, you were a witch and were executed. If you drowned, you were all right—in more ways than one.

FLORA

Well Josie, despite all your cynicisms, I'd rather go down with the one man I loved than live in loneliness and sorrow without him. I'm a believer in love, though the floor be bare, and the cottage small.

JOSIE

I'm a believer in love, too, but no bare floors. Love's tender unshod feet are apt to catch cold on a bare floor, and then, if you have to weep, a velvet carpet will absorb the tears, but they make ugly stains for the neighbors to remark, when they fall on bare floors.

(Enter Charley from room, smoking.)

Well, Charlie, where are you going so despondently?

(Cross R.)

CHARLES

Oh, I was going down to the river.

JOSIE

Not with suicidal intentions?

CHARLES

Oh, I can swim.

JOSIE

Then drowning wouldn't answer in your case.

(R.)

CHARLES

(C.)

Oh, yes it would. It would do about all other methods. I could take a change of venue, if I didn't like the proceedings. Good for me. How's that, Miss Flora May, Ha, ha, ha.

(Strikes chest.)

FLORA

I'm proud of you Charlie. Come here and take my part. Josie doesn't even allow me to think.

JOSIE

Nonsense child, I'm trying to encourage you to the habit, not prevent it. But in your case, Charlie, I wouldn't recommend anything so violent, at first, it might prove fatal.

CHARLES

Thanks for the consideration.

(Bows extravagantly.)

Have you seen anything of my German friend, since breakfast? I may be undecided on some points, but I think Hohenstauffen is a brick, and for two cents I would have taken an hand in that affair myself. I'm a little handy at the manly art—for an amateur—and if it's ever excusable, I think a slight display was called for yesterday.

FLORA

Mr. Hohenstauffen went down the river, directly after breakfast. He seemed to be terribly bothered. Did he say anything to you, Charles?

CHARLES

He apologized for losing his temper, or something of that sort, but he certainly has something on his mind, for he could scarcely speak a dozen words in English.

HARRIET

(Enters from house in morning dress, cloth around head.)

Good morning folks. How are you all feeling this morning?

CHARLES

Good morning, Mrs. Randolph.

JOSIE

We are all feeling as charming as the morning, thank you. Have you quite recovered from you headache of last evening?

FLORA

We were so sorry that you couldn't breakfast with us.

JOSIE

Yes, and we would have come to your room, but Martha said you asked not to be disturbed.

(These speeches must be spoken rapidly, Jose and Flora speaking at the same time and going over to Mrs. R., Josie R, Flo L. then seated her on chair R, Chas. extreme L.)

HARRIET

Thank you children, for your solicitude, but I am a martyr to these headaches.

CHARLES

Mrs. Randolph you must let me try the new French remedy. It is the simplest think in the world. You just allow yourself to be hypnotized

(Gesticulating like a hypnotist.)

And while in that state you are convinced that there is nothing at all the matter with you, and when you come out of the trance, you won't be bothered with it any more.

JOSIE

Why Charles, can you hypnotize any one?

CHARLES

Not anyone – just some – only willing subjects.

JOSIE

Well, if you have been hypnotized before, you don't make a willing subject, do you?

CHARLES

I don't know. This is the first time I was ever thoroughly under control.

(Bows to her.)

JOSIE

Thanks.

(Turns to him.)

CHARLES

Don't mention it.

HARRIET

I don't believe in such deceptions. If I have a headache I want to know it. One gets little enough consideration as it is. Flora, my child, I wish to speak to you.

CHARLES

Miss Josephine, you do care to take a little constitutional?

JOSIE

Certainly. Are you in the somnambulistic state now? Auntie, we will leave you and Flora together.

(Pretends to hypnotize Charles.)

You are now Sir Walter Raleigh, paying court to Queen Elizabeth.

(Charles slaps imaginary several salutes with hat and offers his hand.)

CHARLES

(Leads Josie to gate or archway L. Suddenly stops as if an obstruction were in the pathway, quickly takes his coat off and spreads it on the ground, kneels down to Josie who walks imperiously over coat. Chas. takes up coat, exit through arch. Flo. laughs.)

HARRIET

Come here my child. I wish to speak seriously to you.

FLORA

Well, Ma what is it? I am sorry you are not feeling well.

HARRIET

It is not of myself I would speak to you, Flora, my dear, but of one you naturally love more. Your father suffers too, but he would never speak.

FLORA

Dear Pa suffers. He has sacrificed too much for my happiness

(Sits at her feet.)

and has been both father and mother to me—

(Mrs. R. shows affront.)

Oh, forgive me Ma. I don't mean to hurt you, but you know it wasn't natural for us to love each other as would, had I been your own child.

HARRIET

Never mind that. You do not know how much we have sacrificed for you— I mean your father has.

FLORA

Oh, yes I do, and I love you so dearly for it.

HARRIET

You are no longer a child, Flora May. You are a woman now, and as your mother was not spared to do direct your courses in life, I feel it is my duty to take her place.

FLORA

Poor dear Ma— I only knew her in my dreams.

HARRIET

You say you know all we have—your father has sacrificed for you. Do you know that he has ruined us all for your sake?

FLORA

Ma, what do you mean?

HARRIET

For your sake he has encumbered this home to such an extent that in less than a year we shall be without a roof over our heads. The education your father insisted on giving you has ruined us, but there is a way you can save us all, and you yourself be happy in the bargain.

FLORA

How—Ma—How?

HARRIET

It is Marshall Boner that your father is so obligated to, and yesterday's unfortunate misunderstanding with that stupid Mr. Hohenstauffen has doubtless upset a generous arrangement Mr. Boner made to save your father.

FLORA

Pardon me, Ma,

(Rising.)

But Mr. Hohenstauffen was not in the least to blame. Mr. Boner was terribly in liquor, and was insulting and boorish to a degree.

(Goes C.)

HARRIET

Flora, Marshall loves you, and love will excuse very peculiar conduct in a man.

FLORA

But I don't love him. I hate and despise him. He is so common.

HARRIET

(Rising.)

That is just what I expected from you. Any quantity of protestations but when I show you how you can prove your love, you are flinching from anything that does not comply with your school girl ideas of what a sweetheart should be.

FLORA

Oh, Ma, do you really think it could save us—if I used Marshall Boner well? But my goodness, I'd show at every turn how I disliked him. I couldn't help it.

(Intensely as if an idea has just struck her.)

Does father know of this? Have you spoken to him about it? Does he know Mr. Boner loves me?

(As if idea was repulsed.)

HARRIET

Your name was mentioned yesterday when Mr. Boner made the generous offer to buy the place, and give it back to us.

FLORA

Give it back to us. What do you mean?

HARRIET

There was something said about new notes, but it was a mere trifle something like 6% of what the original debt was now.

(Wheedlingly.)

Flora, my child, you must use him well, or your father and all of us will be ruined.

(Starting R. then turning.)

And one word more, you must promise to keep your hear free from any other man, and I'll warrant you'll love Marshall yet. There now, dear, do you promise me this, for your dear father's sake?

FLORA

(After pause and almost shrinking from her.)

I promise to keep my hand free, for dear Pa's sake, but if I never marry until I love Marshall Boner, I'll die a spinster, if I live to be as old as Methuselah.

(Intensely, going L.)

HARRIET

(On porch.)

Keep your promise child, and take my word for it.

(Enter Martha L.3E. overhearing.)

You'll love Marshall, and marry him too, you fanciful sentimental child.

(Exits into house.)

FLORA

My promise. Well, only promised to keep my hand free. I can't speak for my heart. I don't understand the German well enough.

(Sit L.)

MARTHA

(Excitedly coming down.

Cousin Flo May, I hate you. I could tear your pretty eyes out I hate you so.

(Rushing at her.)

Oh, forgive me, Flo May, I don't know what I am saying.

(Sinks down crying hysterically.)

Forgive me, I'm so unhappy.

FLORA

Why, Martha dear, what's the matter. Don't cry. What have I done to make you unhappy? Tell me dear, and I'll undo it, if it is in my power.

MARTHA

(Rising hysterical all through speech.)

Oh, nothing—nothing—I—I reckon I'm only a little flighty, after bein' in the sun so much. It ain't nothin' you can undo for my heart is broken. Flo May, my heart is broken—there—there—there now, tain't nothin' I can tell to you. Tain't nothin' I can tell to no one— Now don't mind me. It'll be all right in a few minutes, as soon as I get where it is cool— I'll be all right. —

(Flo goes to her sympathetically.)

If you'll leave me alone, it'll come out all right, I reckon. It'll come all right, I reckon.

(Exits in house hurriedly.)

FLORA

(Alone)

Poor Martha. It must be as she says on account of her being in the sun so much yesterday at the picnic.

(Enter Poly E.3.R. with bunch of wild flowers.)

POLY

Miss Flo May, I've got a prosentimen' fo' yo' from Mr. Hohenstaffan— dis bu'ful bunch ob wile flowahs, as 'propriate token of his alle admiration fo' yo'.

(Presents flowers.)

FLORA

Did Mr. Hohenstauffen tell you to say all that?

POLY

Not jes zadkley, honey, lam chile, but whe he done tole me fer to deliver it, he guv me a half dallah, an' he look so mighty implorin' like, dat I made bole to venture dose dew remarks n his behaf'.

(Crosses R. to porch.)

De Gem'in'll be heah in person hisself in a ver few mints.

(Bows extravagantly, exit into house.)

FLORA

How sweet. There's always something good about a man who loves flowers.

(Sits L.)

CHARLES

(Outside.)

Now, that's settled.

(Enter Chas. Hohen. and Josie L.U.E.)

Josie and I will see Mr. Randolph and you will find it unnecessary to make any explanation whatever.

JOSIE

You may depend upon that.

HOHEN

You don't know how you unload me, my kind friends.

(Sees Flo and tips cap.)

9. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

JOSIE

(Who has seen Flo behind admiring flowers.)

I see you've taken up the study of flowers. Here is Mr. Hohenstauffen. He may be able to give you some points on them.

HOHEN

It would afford me infinitely more pleasure, could I arrange it so that your fair cousin could always have them without point on them.

JOSIE

(Laughs.)

Mr. Hohenstauffen, if you will remain here with Flora

(Crossing R.)

Charlie and I will attend to our little mission.

CHARLES

Yes, we'll settle the Philistine.

HOHEN

Philistine! Ah! That reminds me of Heidelberg,

(Makes gesture of sword play and strikes cheek)

but no matter why.

JOSIE

No, it always frightens me when you mention Heidelberg.

HOHEN

Thy Heidelberg' *Auf die mansur! Lose! Slacht!*

(Bus. As before)

POLY

(Enter from house with two small flags.)

'Scuse me, ladies, but duz dese eyblumns ob de Foth ob July, fo' which Mars Gen'l Gawge Washingto fit, bled, and—

JOSIE

That will do Poly, they belong to us.

(She takes and give to Flo. who comes over one, Flo. returns L.)

FLORA

Well, I should say so. I slept with mine under my pillow last night.

JOSIE

(Stands center.)

Oh, the Star Spangled Banner,

Oh, long may it wave,

O'er the land of the free,

And the home of the brave!

(Seriocomically and waving flag at Hohen, who salutes with cap.)

POLY

I'se gwine to de pos office now, an' I done hurry back wif de greates' expoditionsness.
(Exit L. U. E.)

HOHEN

Oh, Emperor! Excuse ladies, ir you please, one moment; Oh, Emperor, one moment.
(Flo. goes L, Charles and Josie R. observing. Hohen exits confused, reaching for money.)

POLY

(Outside.)
Oh, thanky thanky, Sah. You'se pow'ful kind and consideratious, Sah.
(Josie holds hand for tip, Charlie puts flag in hand.)
(Hohen enters during dialogue.)

JOSIE

Flora, if you take another lesson in German, don't ask foolish questions, when you get on the past ense of a verb.

CHARLES

They have loved, you have loved, I have loved.

JOSIE

Charles!
(At door, exit.)

CHARLES

You my pet – you, you.
(Exit quickly.)

HOHEN

(To Flo. after embarrassing pause)
Let us not, if you are agreeable, study German today. There is something I must tell out to you, and I have turned the whole English upside out to find words to express myself over to you.

FLO

What is it? It you tell me, maybe I could help you to say it.

HOHEN

That is what is the matter by me; if you knew what it was I would not need to tell it by you. Ah, she cannot kill me if I say it. Freulein Flora, now am I done with my English- Not one word is by me yet left. *Ach meine liebe kleine*, I see you have the little bouquet.

FLORA

Yes, allow me to thank you for it. I love wild flowers. Won't you not sit down, Mr. Hohenstauffen?

HOHEN

(Thanks her and is about to sit, then hesitates and goes R.)
I think I will walk about.
(Aside.)
I have a peculiar feeling that I am about to be attacked with paralysis.

FLORA

There is one thing I have wanted to ask you for a long time.

HOHEN

Maybe it is the same thing I have wanted to ask you for a long time. Try if you can tell it. Who it is?

FLORA

Did you ever find that flower you were about to forget the day I came home?

HOHEN

Herr Gott! That is the same specimen I was thinking of, but whenever I would speak of it, my head goes swimming and my tongue gets bigger as my mouth.

FLORA

Is it of that you wanted to speak? If you describe it to me maybe I could recognize it. Are you sure it is found in this country?

HOHEN

(Looks quickly at her, then deliberately walks over to her.)

The kind of flower I allude to is indigenous to all climates. It has been known to the most superficial students of botany from the very earliest historical records, and has flourished in various degrees of perfection ever since. The first mention is made of it, I believe, In the Bible. It was then found only in the Garden of Eden. It is not of a tuberous nor yet of bulbous origin; strange to say, this flower developed from a rib, from one of the genus homo. This appears to be the most wonderful and yet the best product of that species. It is also the only similar product that sprang from the same source, although billions upon billions of ribs have since been planted at all seasons of the year, and in all kinds of soil.

It appears that in the early development of this flower had a very scanty foliage-at first none at all-but nowadays the foliage is often so varied and extravagant in design and quantity as to puzzle the most learned scientists.

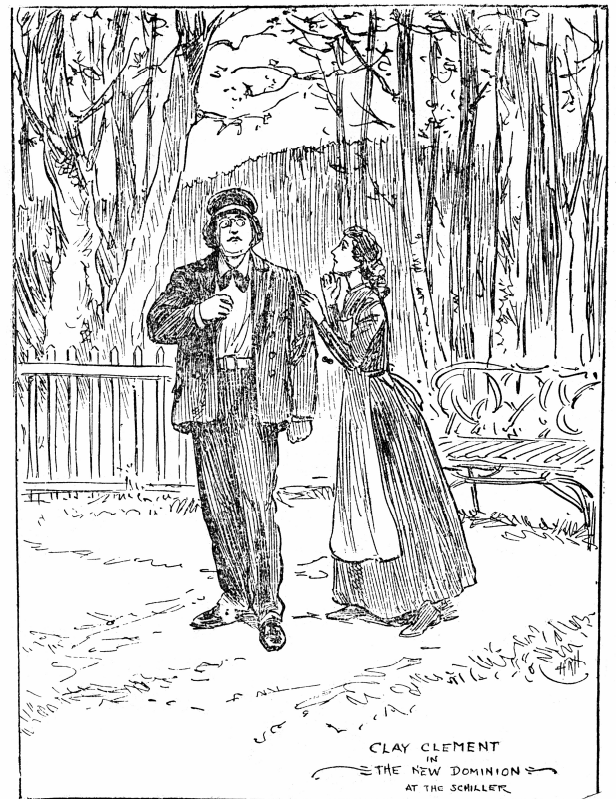
(Music.)

This flower has always exercised a powerful influence over the actions of man. In an imperfect condition, it breeds sorrow, crime and death; but when given half a chance, it elevates man from a barbarous root-eater to the noblest being in all creation; makes him considerate of his fellow man, inspires in him a love for the beautiful of this world, it makes brighter the sunshine, and gives comfort in the darkness; and when the cold hand of death rests upon his brow, that flower breathes in his ear a sweet hope that wafts his soul away from this world on her fragrant bosom to the great unknown.

This Genus is commonly called "Woman."

[substituted speech from a playbill published by the author, which differed by one word]

(Music tacit)



FLORA

I am indeed sorry that you experience so much trouble in finding a good specimen about here.

HOHEN

Ach Gott! That a pretty little dress you have got you yourself on.

FLORA

(About to take flower from bouquet.)

Tell me something about this flower.

HOHEN

Oh, I am disgusted of myself—

(Goes R.)

There is too much botany in this for love-making.

FLORA

But I don't want to make love.

HOHEN

But I do. I want to make love out of you. Now do I come right away to it, or I will explode of myself. Will you marry me and be my wife?

(Kneeling to her.)

FLORA

Well, if I married you, I'd be your wife, wouldn't I.

HOHEN

As I understand it, not certainly in this country. *Ober sill!* *Ach, Liebe Flora*, I love you more than I can explain about, and I will always try as hard, as not, is to make you happy.

FLORA

Think, Mr. Hohenstauffen, could you be happy with me?

HOHEN

Ach Himmel! I could be happy anywhere on anything with you.

FLORA

But I know so little about you.

HOHEN

I will tell it all out to you now—

(Rises and sits beside her on bench.)

so you need have no scruples, nor your father too. I have not thought it necessary before to mention it,

(Embarrassed.)

but there is a Von in my name.

FLORA

(Laughing.)

It does sound real funny at first.

HOHEN

(Surprised and confused.)

No, no, not fun—not your ha, ha, fun, Von

(Bus of spelling Von.)

Von so ach der V—O—N Well, that is the proof of good descent. My father was a—

FLORA

(Suddenly remembers her promise and starts violently)

Stop, stop, Mr. Hohenstauffen!

(Flora rises from seat, drops flag as she does and crosses R.C.)

Forgive me for allowing you to go so far; I had forgotten. Forgive me.

HOHEN

Forgive you?

(Rises and goes to her)

Oh, I'm not offended. I am quite sure my name sounds funny, at first, but if it was your own, you would soon become acquainted to it. *Ach liebe*, Flora, will you not marry me? I love you so strong I cannot tell— Do you not care for me one little little piece.

(Flora sobs slightly, then pulls up.)

What! Are you crying! I would not make you cry to save my life. What is it?

(Music pp.)

FLORA

Oh, I have been wicked to allow you to say so much. No, I must appear cruel and heartless to you; for I cannot be your wife. Forgive me. I did not think of my promise, but it was so sweet to hear your love—I did not realize the wrong I was doing. I must not see you any more— Try to forget the wrong I've done you. I have a sacred duty— and my promise is given that it shall be performed. Mr. Hohenstauffen, say that you will forgive me.

(Extends hand.)

HOHEN

(Takes her hand tenderly.)

There is nothing to forgive that was not forgiven as it came.

(Releases hand.)

I am a botanist, and have long known that beneath the graceful petals of the beautiful rose is the sharp thorn. I am yet greatly indebted to you; for you have caused me to experience the most exquisite pleasure of my whole life.

(Flo. goes to door.)

(Aside.)

And now comes the sharpest pain.

FLORA

The memory of your love will always be a comfort to me.

(Exit in house.)

HOHEN

(Adjusts cap mechanically.)

Ach Hohenstauffen! Hohenstauffen! You waited a long time, and traveled far from home to break your old fool hear. *Ach, du armer narr*. Her Promise! *Mein Gott!* She loves another man. *Yah, das ist war*.

(Go L., Poly enters L.U.E. sees Hohen, comes down R. or him, bows politely)

POLY

Marse Hodestoffles.

HOHEN

(Hohen abstractedly reaches hand in pocket, give him coin.)

It is all over yet.

POLY

Heah's a letter fo' yo', Sah.

HOHEN

(Take letter, gives money as before.)

So ist's immer; so ist's immer noch ein ander and immer wieder ein ander, —

(Tears letter to pieces in rage.)

Ach Gott! Gott! It does not kill, ah it never kills, that's the devil of it.

POLY

Oh, Marse Hodeustoffles! Is yo' gwine clean outen yo' sense, Sah.

HOHEN

(Gives money again.)

Ya, that's it, Emperor, that's it.

(Gives coin again.)

I am the greatest fool in America.

POLY

Thanky, thanky. Cayn't I do nuffin fo' yo', Sah? You done tore up the letter I jest gib yo'.

HOHEN

Emperor, pack up my luggage. I will go today aware sure.

POLY

Oh, no Sah. Marse Hodus—

HOHEN

Yes, Emperor, pack up, pack up.

POLY

Mus' I put do spec'munts in de big cese, Sah?

HOHEN

No, no, throw those specimens away; I shall not take them.

POLY

An' what I'se gwine to do wif de cases, Sah?

15. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

HOHEN

Pack all my clothing, except my linen, my travelling dress and my evening dress in them, and throw them away too, if you do not want them.

(Poly starts to go.)

Emperor,

(Crossing R.)

I'll pack them up myself. Emperor, if you will have a wagon ready in thirty minutes, we will go by the station. Emperor, you are a good fellow, you are good, kind—

(Bus. Give him several pieces of coin.)

Jets ist – alles verbei – jest ist – alles verbei.

(Music tacit. Exit into house.)

POLY

(Look after him in astonishment. Looks at money.)

Marthy was right. Sho' dat man ain't in his right senses – crazy's n loon. Ef he'd only stay heah a few mo' months, ole Poly could clear off dat madgidge From dese premises hisself.

(Start toward gate L.U.E., Boner enters hurriedly, almost runs over Poly.)

BONER

Are the folks at home?

POLY

Which folks, Sah?

BONER

Any of them. Just say Mr. Boner is here. That's all. And don't be all day about it. I'm on my way to the Court House, and have no time to lose.

POLY

Yes Sah, I'se gwine, Sah.

(Exit in house looking at money.)

BONER

I'll show this here set of stuck-up paupers they can't insult a gentleman without paying mightily dearly for it. And that Dutch man'll leave here and I'll be apologized to in good form, or this place'll be mine and they can put on seminary airs in the road or anywhere else, but not here and on my money. Blast Martha. I wonder if she's told anything. Why the devil don' some of 'om come.

(Start for gate as Mr. Randolph appears on porch.)

I'm goin'.

RANDOLPH

Good morning, Mr. Boner. Won't you walk into the house, if you are on business.

BONER

If I'm on business? Thank you, no. I'm in right smart of a hurry and we can talk here, if you have anything to say.

RANDOLPH

If I have anything to say? Won't you sit down, Mr. Boner?

(Point to seat L.)

BONER

Thank you Sir, no.

RANDOLPH

Then pardon me if I sit, as I am not strong any more.

BONER

Well, I'll come right straight to the point.

RANDOLPH

Very Well, Mr. Boner.

BONER

You remember our talk yesterday?

RANDOLPH

I do.

BONER

You know what I agreed to do?

RANDOLPH

Quite well, Sir.

BONER

Well, I'm on the way to the Count Seat now!

RANDOLPH

Yes?

BONER

Do you know how I was insulted yesterday by Flora May, and had it rubbed in by that Dutch boarder of yours?

RANDOLPH

I was not informed until this minute that you had been insulted.

BONER

Well, I was, and scandalously, too. I left the house as soon as I could for fear I'd do violence; but I'm cool today, and Mrs. Randolph's letter showed me that neither you nor her liked it and that you wanted to smooth it over.

RANDOLPH

Mrs. Randolph wrote you that? When?

BONER

This morning. Didn't you know it?
(Turning to him.)

RANDOLPH

(With great indignation.)

Assuredly, anything my wife does is with my sanction.

BONER

Well, I'm glad to hear it. On them terms the thing can go on as it was; but of course that insulting Dutchman leaves — and you'll encourage Miss Flora May to see me a little more as if I was white, considerin' how things stand; and then you know I love her more.

RANDOLPH

For God's sake!

(Rising.)

Man, stop! Have you no decency, no honor? Not content with receiving an apology from a gentleman whose sacred hospitality you violated and disgraced with a vulgar, drunken brawl, so you now presume to dictate which guests shall remain under my roof, and the disposition I shall make of my daughter's society? Damn it, man!

(Advancing on him.)

Because your father came to this country, with a carpet bag of money and got a mortgage on my estate, he did not get a mortgage on my honor, nor my family's life and happiness, —

(Goes in storm of rage and indignation.)

You may go, Sir, to the Court House as soon as your horse will carry you; you may sell this estate to whom you please; but as the last hour of my lordship here, it shall be defended with the same honor and dignity with which my forefathers defended their rights against oppression and dishonor.

(Goes to door.)

Mr. Boner, I have finished with you, now and forever. Good day, Sir.

(Exit into house)

BONER

(Alone.)

But I'm not done with you. Damn you. I'll show you how a carpet-bagger's son can resent an insult to his father. I'll dump the bones of your shoddy ancestors into a hole in Potter's field, and raise beans on the soil they fertilize. Call my father a carpet-bagger! Why, you broken down relic of transported nobility, I'm on to you, Mr. Sacred Hospitality;

(L.)

I'll make you tired for this day's work.

MARTHA

(Enter quickly from house.)

Marshall! Marshall! What have you been saying to Uncle Edgar? He just came in pale with rage.

BONER

Well, I'll make him paler yet, before I'm through with him. I'll bend their pride for them.

MARTHA

I know what you mean. You're goin' to do something with the mortgage you have on this place.

BONER

You hold your tongue. I know my business, and this place'll be on the market, as soon as the law'll allow.

MARTHA

Oh, Marshall, think!

BONER

I have thought— and I'm done with you, too, from now on.

MARTHA

Marshall, listen to me— just a word.

(Grasp his arm imploringly.)

BONER

Not a word. You've brought most of this on me, and I'm done with you along with the rest of them.

(Throw her off, exits through gate L.U.E.)

MARTHA

My God! What have I to look for now? I know! Tain't tears and prayers that'll do me no good now. I'll wipe my eyes out and be even with that hard-hearted devil of a man, if I swing for it. No more crying for me.

(Poly enters from house with Hohen's valise and hat box, Hohen follows.)

Mr. Hohenstauffen, you're the very man I wanted to see. Poly, go on with the things; I want to speak to Mr. Hohenstauffen.

(Poly exits L.U.E.)

Mr. Hohenstauffen, I'm no longer a sniveling fool of a girl; I'm a desperate woman.

HOHEN

Well, shoot off your fire-works; you cannot frighten me; I'm a desperate man myself. What can I do for you?

MARTHA

I'm in a great trouble.

HOHEN

You are in great trouble. We will do to go together— I'm in great trouble myself.

MARTHA

But not in such trouble as I am.

HOHEN

Well, it's a first cousin to your trouble. I'll bet a cent by nothing.

MARTHA

Oh, Sir, listen. I love Marshall Boner.

HOHEN

We'll have to part company on that proposition.

MARTHA

I know he has insulted you, but that ain't what I want to talk about now. He used to love me and was kind to me, till his father died and left him some sort of claim on the here place. Then he took to drink and neglected me, but I wouldn't care for that if he didn't want to marry my cousin, Flo May!

19. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

HOHEN

Ach Gott! Are you sure?

(Turns to her intensely interested.)

MARTHA

Sure as I'm alive, and my own Aunt Harriet is encouraging it to save this place for them. Marshall's gone now to the Count Seat to do something about selling it.

HOHEN

Ich versech. He uses this power over you cousin to make her marry him and to save her home. Is not what you mean?

MARTHA

That's it, and I don't want them to marry, for I love Mr. Boner.

HOHEN

I'm with you once yet, — I don't want them to marry, too, for I love the other fellow.

(Go down R.)

MARTHA

What! You love my cousin Flo May?

HOHEN

Well, you have acknowledge your love— I might as well tell you the truth, I do love her, but there is no use. She is promised to some other man but me.

MARTHA

But she don't love him. I know it, and she does love you.

HOHEN

(Grasping her wrist.)

Ach Gott! Are you sure? Which have you said? How is it! Explain of yourself. *Wie viel schuldet dien Onkel dem verdamten Spitz Boben?*

MARTHA

How? I don't understand you.

HOHEN

I said, how much does your uncle owe the gentleman?

MARTHA

I don't know, but can't you tell me something to do to prevent their marriage?

HOHEN

You keep what I have said a secret to you, and I promise to help you, my companion in misery. I have an idea, the first one that has been in my head since I have been in America.

(Hustles her across to door.)

Go quick into the house in *und* find out my friend Mr. Charles McVeigh and tell him from the house in out to come out quick! Go in!

(Push her off. Martha exits into house.)

I have my foot in it now; I might as well go in over my head and do something or drown off myself.

(Enter Charles from house.)

Come here, my friend, you are a liar, are you not?

CHARLES

What the devil do you mean? Have you gone mad, Hohenstauffen?

HOHEN

Do you notice it, too? Well, I ma half way there anyhow.

CHARLES

What do you mean by asking me if I am a liar?

HOHEN

Pardon me, you have not understood me; that is my defective speech of English. I would have said, you are not a practitioner of American law?

CHARLES

Oh, yes I understand a lawyer— to be sure I am— I can refer you one man who is serving a life sentence and to another, well, he's in no condition to testify— They hanged him.

HOHEN

Will you kindly give me a little information and advice?

CHARLES

What? You don't want to die?

HOHEN

I had not thought about that, but that would do. The me in confidence, my *froiend* how much does this family owe that loafer, Boner?

CHARLES

Why do you want to know?

HOHEN

On my honor as a gentleman, it is for a worthy purpose— simply this, I have just learned that he is gone to town to the county *Sitz* town, to sell out this place, or something that way. He is trying to force himself on Miss Flora May Randolph, and he has broken the heart of that poor girl Martha. Now which could be doed-dir-doned—

21. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

CHARLES

By thunder! I see in more than one direction now. Old man, you're right. Boner holds mortgage notes for fifteen thousand dollars and they're over due now. But he can't sell the place in a day. The only thing that could be done is to pay off the mortgage, but poor Randolph can't raise half that much on this dilapidated estate in these panicky times.

HOHEN

Well, then we will have to raise it for him.

CHARLES

Don't be sarcastic.

HOHEN

No, no, I mean what I say. On our honor to be secret about it will you go in with me, and we will take out those notes today, eh?

CHARLES

Don't talk nonsense. I haven't enough money to see me through the summer.

HOHEN

Oh, I don't mean that. You do the American law business. I will furnish the money. Fifteen thousand dollars- *Los, muss einmal sehen, das ist halt sechzig tausend Mark*, — here my friend, here is my sure whole name.

CHARLES

Baron Franz Victor Von Hohenstauffen!

HOHEN

Yes, care of the German legation, Washington City, I will arrange for your draft and furnish you with my home address.

CHARLES

Good heavens! Are you a Baron?

HOHEN

Couldn't you tell by the jackass I have been making out of myself?

CHARLES

Well, I'm dumbfounded.

I don't know what you call it in English, but I am worse than that, is it agreed, my friend?

(Extending hand.)

CHARLES

Agreed, you bet.

(Clasps hand.)

Make me your attorney, provide me with the munitions of war, and I'll send a shell into his camp that will blow his matrimonial prospects higher than I hung my first client.

HOHEN

That's right, we give him another fourth of July yet this year.

CHARLES

As soon as I have possession of the notes, you be close at hand to take them and claim the reward.

HOHEN

No, no.

CHARLES

Why, yes, it will be smooth sailing for you then.

HOHEN

No, no, no!

CHARLES

Great Caesar, man, she'll never refuse you when she knows what you've done.

HOHEN

Herr Gott! I would be as great a villain as Boner, were I to save her from one marriage out of duty, only to force her to another from gratitude.

CHARLES

What devil are you doing all this for, then?

HOHEN

Because I love her, my friend. Now am I off for Washington, then to Germany. You will write to me and tell me how it all is out. If you will go into the house and keep them from noticing that I am gone till I am out by the station. —

CHARLES

Good bye, old man. Your case is safe with me.

HOHEN

Ach! Ach! Thank *Gott*, we will have saved her.

(Is about to go, looks at seat where she sat last and sees flag; picking it up affectionately, folds it and puts in pocket with emotion. Looks at her window as if saying a last good-bye, with back to audience. Breaks down, but immediately pulls self together, assumes military attitude and marches off as curtain descends.)

C U R T A I N .

“The New Dominion”

Act IV.

Scene: Music for rise and until dialogue. Scene same as in Act II, only winter time, the same river frozen over, the wintry landscape visible through windows. Large wood fire in fireplace. Deep rations of holly and mistletoe. Christmas Eve. Mr. Randolph discovered seated by fireplace. Poly enters with punch bowl of eggnog, which he puts on the table. Turns up the lamps on the side board and comes to stand. Lamp down L. and as he turns this up sees Randolph.

POLY

Why, Marse Egger, yo' ain't a sleepin' is yo'?

RANDOLPH

No Poly. I am really thinking.

POLY

Ef we'se gwine to hab any Christmas Eve, you'll hab to stop yo' thinkin', or it'll turn into a lamentation meetin'.

(Go over and set out mugs and wipes them. Pause.)

Is yo' in uhnest 'bout leabin' de ole home New Years day, Marse Egger? Sho' nuff in uhnest?

RANDOLPH

Yes, Poly. I'm in earnest. New Years Day will find us in other quarters.

POLY

But 'yo hain't obleeged to leab. Nobody ain't hear nuffin to that effect from Mr. Hodestoffles, an' I'se berry sho' dat he'll meber lis'en to no such arbitration actions as yohn is. Oh, Marse Egger, doan let yo' pride make yo' gib de ole home— I cayn't bear to have yet gib up de ole home san. De good Lawd knows dat tain't for my own sef's dake, kase it don't matter much whar dis old back head res'— I reckon I'll wake when Gab'el sounds de risin'.

(Sinks on kness by Randolph's chair.)

But oh, Marse Egger, I does want de arch angel to fin' yo' sleepin' out yander in de cypress closure, long wif yo' four boys an Miss Sarah.

RANDOLPH

There, there, Poly you distress me.

POLY

(Rises.)

Well, dat comes of yo' thinkin' so hard heah in de dark. But I gib yo' fair wanin' Marse Egger, dat I blongs to dis heah plantation. I lub yo', yo' knows dat, Sah, and I'd sell dis ole black body to keep yo' heah, but ef yo' jes will gib it up on count o' yo' pride, yo' has to gib me up wif it— fo' ise part and parsal ob de place, jes as much as my Miss Sarah's grabe is. Whar dis place goes, I goes too, an' while dis ole nigger kin hobble long, whosoever knocks at dat front door 'oo find Napoleon Lafayette Randolph right dar to answer de knockin. I's goat a trifle ob de Randolph pride myself. I is.

(Go to punch bowl.)

RANDOLPH

If you go with the place, Poly, I'd doubly glad that it isn't Marshall Boner to whom I'm transferring it.

POLY

Golly, may be I ain't nuther. But I reckon it'll be a stretch of providence ef he ain't transferred to de nex' wool'.

RANDOLPH

Have you heard how he is today?

POLY

Yes Sah. When I was ober to Marse Thomas McVeighs I stopped in and Marthy said he's probably git well, but he looks like def, and hain't got his mine right yet.

RANDOLPH

Pneumonia is a treacherous disease— there's no telling.

POLY

Ah habin' de tremenjous deliriousness fo' a week afor done help it none.

RANDOLPH

That is what brought on the poor fellow's sickness.

POLY

Yes— and not gittin a chance to sell dis place under de hammah brung on de tremers, de fust ob all.

RANDOLPH

Well, well, poor fellow. I hope he'll recover.

POLY

Ef it's the Lawd's will to remove him, I don't want to tamper wif divine providence.

(Goes up.)

Dis eggnog never looked better in de palmiest days.

RANDOLPH

I'm glad of that. This will be the first evening I have spent with the Judge for many years.

POLY

Yes, inddedy, Sah, but yo' an' Marsa Thomas done had a heap ob excinin' time ob my recollections, He, he, ha.

RANDOLPH

Go along, Poly and ask Flo May to come here. I wan to speak to her before the folks come.

(Poly starts towards stairway, when Flo appears.)

POLY

Mis Flo May, honey, lam chile, you Pa wnt to see yo'.

(Goes to door L.3.E., aside.)

Dis am de most meloncholicks Christmas I ebber did seed.

(Exits door L.3.E.)

FLORA

(Goes over to Randolph's chair.)

Well, dear Pa, you are as bad as I am. Here it is dark and you havent dressed yourself.

3. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

RANDOLPH

I will dress in a moment. Poly has brought up a subject that has weighed heavily on my mind for months. You have been aware of my determination to turn our home over to Mr. Hoehstauffen, on account of those notes his attorneys brought in.

I knew it, but he's not here to turn it over to, is he?

RANDOLPH

No, but his representatives are here. I will not be under such obligations, nor receive such gratuitous favor. It puts me at his mercy.

FLORA

Why, Pa, he is a good man.

RANDOLPH

You know why I declined Mr. Boner's assistance.

FLORA

Bur Mr. Hohenstauffen wouldn't presume on such an advantage.

RANDOLPH

He might—

FLORA

(Delighted.)

Oh, do you think so?

RANDOLPH

He might.

FLORA

Well, if he did, I suppose it would be my duty to save our home, for your sake, dear Pa.

RANDOLPH

Never, child for my sake.

FLORA

Well, then for my sake— for Ma's sake— Oh, Pa, I would marry him for his own sake.

RANDOLPH

What, child!

FLORA

Pa, he loves me, and I loved him, and I fancied it was for the best that I broke both his heart and mine, but if he ever should come back, I'd be so happy, for I love him still, and I'm so miserable now.

RANDOLPH

No, no, Flora— child—

FLORA

(Lays head on his breast.)

Yes, yes, —Pa —child——

RANDOLPH

Well, we'll have to think about it.

FLORA

Oh, I'm so glad that I told you now.

(Hugging him.)

I feel so much better— relieved.

RANDOLPH

But why didn't you tell me all this while he was here.

(Bell rings.)

My stars. We're not dressed and the judge is here.

(Enter Poly and Harriet L.3.E.)

Go to the door, Poly. Harriet, we will be down in a moment, excuse us to the folks.

(Exit up stairs.)

HARRIET

Of course I have all of the unpleasant duties to perform.

(Music plaintive, Poly goes across at once and exits R.3E. re-entering with Martha, who carries a small bundle.)

Land of goodness, is it you Martha? Is Marshall dead, that you come in looking so?

(Music tacit. Sits down in chair L.)

MARTHA

(Stops R.)

No, Aunt Harriet, he is better.

POLY

(At door L.3.E., Aside.)

Jes' as I 'sposed, de dibbil takes precious good keah ob his own.

(Exits L.3.E.)

HARRIET

The man acted like a down right fool, or he never would have been sick.

MARTHA

I reckon that's no morn true, but he is better now, and I nursed him through it all. This afternoon he was well enough to sit up and talk sensible like, so I come away. And now I'm goin' to pack my kit and go back to the mountains.

HARRIET

Not tonight, you foolish child.

(Music same plaintive.)

MARTHA

Aunt Harriet, I ain't no child no longer. I'm a woman grown and what I ain't got out of books, your cruel treatment and havin' my heart broke has learned me, so I'll never forget.

(Go EsR.)

HARRIET

Martha, Martha, you're so foolish.

5. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

MARTHA

Oh, I'm mor'n that— I'm a heap sight morn that, and if my mother can look at us from the other world, I reckon she's thinkin' you're morn follish too— a heap sight more, Aunt Harriet, and some day you may have to suffer for bein' what you've been to me— as I'm sufferin' now, for bein' what I am.

(Music segues into lively sleighing air, which grows gradually more forte until Josephine enters)
(Exit D.L.3.E.) (When bell stops at door, sound of laughter and voices is heard. Then enter L.3.E. gaily, without ringing, Josie and Charlie. Poly enter from door L.3.E. Harriet rises when they are on.)

JOSIE

Why bless your sweet faces, here we are. How do you do, Aunt Harriet?

(Kisses her.)

How do you do Uncle Poly, you dear old thing? I've a Christmas present for you, a great big one.

(Poly shows delight.)

Here, take my wraps.

(Aside to Charlie.)

Charlie, look after that other matter. Where in the name of sense are all the folks.

(Goes to fireplace.)

Well, how are you anyway, Aunt Harriet?

HARRIET

I haven't been well at all. My head is bursting this very minute.

(Crosses to Chas.)

How do you do, Charles? I'm glad to see you.

CHARLES

Thank you, Mrs. Randolph, I'm quite well.

JOSIE

Where is Uncle Edgar and Flora?

HARRIET

They are dressing and will be down presently, I presume. Charles, where is your mother and the Judge.

CHARLES

I have to send the cutter back for them. They'll be here in good time. The governor's feet won't stand in crowding, so we thought it safest to make a separate load of them

JOSIE

Charley and I didn't leave Washington till nine this morning. We had a glorious dinner over at the Judges. I tell you, Aunt Harriet, the judge has certainly made the old place look a credit to the country.

CHARLES

Pardon me— I was the renovator.

JOSIE

Yes, but the Judge was the liquidator.

RANDOLPH

(Enters from stairway in evening dress, as he comes down stairs.)

I heard your voice, Josephine.

JOSIE

(Runs and kisses him. Harriet resumes seat.)

How is dear Uncle Edger? You never looked so well.

RANDOLPH

Your presence makes me feel a young man again. Charles, my boy, I'm delighted to see you.

(He is about to kiss her a second time when Chas. intervenes.)

How do you do, Mr. Randolph?

RANDOLPH

Why, how are you Charles, so glad to see you?

CHARLES

I always feel I have a solid friend in you.

RANDOLPH

You have indeed. But where's the judge and your esteemed mother?

JOSIE

They'll be here in a few minutes. I'm going up to Flora's room. She's taking more time than as if she were dressing for a wedding.

(Starts up stairs, pauses on landing and speaks to Chas. who has shown some nervousness unobserved.)

Attend carefully to the other little matter.

(Exits up stairs.)

CHARLES

You bet—

RANDOLPH

What is that, Charles?

CHARLES

I just called Josie a pet.

RANDOLPH

Is it all settled, then?

CHARLES

Well, practically. It now depends on the results of a case I have on hand.

RANDOLPH

Allow me to congratulate you.

POLY

(Enters very much frightened.)

Marse Egger, Marse Egger, Miss Harriet— come quick fo' de Lawd sake, come up quick.

RANDOLPH & CHARLES

What is it, Poly?

POLY

Marthy's done fell into a historetical fit, an' looks like def an she's a callin' fo' yo' befo.

RANDOLPH

Poor child, when did she return? Come Harriet dear. Where is she Poly?

POLY

In her room, Sah— a writhin' an' moanin' lack all possessed.

(Randolph and Harriet exit hastily L.3E.)

CHARLES

Can I do anything, Poly.

POLY

I dunno. I'll go and see. Lawdy, lawdy Marse Chawles. I'se pale sif skeer, yo' couldn't seed my face in a snow bank.

(Exit L.3E.)

CHARLES

I'll see after the other matter now.

(Music, same sleighing air till bells die away, then segue into 1st Hohenstauffen air, and continue until Hohen— speaks. Halt with coat R.3.E. Then enter her deliberately in evening dress and top coat. Hohenstauffen looks about, removes coat, and finally says:)

HOHEN

Ganz allein— have all gone, and here is very much greens. *Oh ja, ich verstehe*— mint julep. What will she say? What will she say? I am choked out by my throat. If a fire-cracker exploded I shall fall dead on the spot.

(Is looking around towards R. Turns around at “day'll be in.”)

POLY

(Enter L.3.E. and comes up to Hohen. while speaking)

I reckon Marthy all right— Marse Egger says fo' yo' to 'muse yo' seves an' dat day'll be in.

(Hohen turns around.)

In de name ob de Lawd ob hosts. Sabe dis po' ole sinnah. Hits de sperit ob dat go od'n gererous Marse Baron Hodestoffles— Oh, sabe me, Lawd, sabe me, sabe me—

(Kneels with clasped hands. Hohen very deliberately takes a count fomr his pocket and gives it to Poly, who with great fear and caution, as it about to find it all a delusion, takes coin and burst into incoherent rapture, then continues speech.)

Oh, praise de Lawd, hits Marse Hodestoffles, sho' nuf— his own flesh an' blood, saf in pusson. I's e gwine fo' to tell my Missy Flo May dis bery minute—

(Crosses R.)

I knows dat chile's gwine to do ob joy on de spot, kase her heart has done been broke eber since yo' went away.

HOHEN

Emperor, you are a liar?

POLY

As de good Lawd's my jedge, I 'clar it's de gosp'l truf.

HOHEN

And you think she will die of joy when you tell her that I am here.

POLY

I'se sho' an' suttin she will.

HOHEN

Emperor go the other way and keep them out. I will kill her myself.

(Gives Poly coins, who goes to door L.E.3.)

POLY

I do my bes, Sah.

(Aside looking at coin.)

Baron indeed. I bet ebery cent I'se with, dat dat man turns out to be de King ob Germany.

(Exits L.3.E.)

HOHEN

Get out with you, Emperor.

CHARLES

(Enter shivering R.3.E.)

Have you seen her, Hohenstauffen? I'm nearly frozen to death. Buuuuuuuuuuuuuu.

(Goes to fireplace.)

HOHEN

I have not seen her. I have it all arranged with your uncle.

CHARLES

Good, you have seen her father.

HOHEN

No, no, the nigger Uncle.

CHARLES

The devil.

(Laughs heartily.)

They'll be here in a minute. Josie and I will leave you alone with her, and keep off the old folks, but you must hurry.

HOHEN

Just leave me alone with her, and in three minutes, you may bring a Priest or an undertaker.

(Here as Josie and Flo. coming down stairs.)

Ach Gott. They are here.

(Retires toward fireplace. Chas. C. as they enter, Flo. first.)

CHARLES

How is that sweet Flora May?



9. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

FLORA

Thank you Charlie. I'm quite well. How are you?

(Shakes hands and sees Hohen.)

Baron Franz Victor Von Hohenstauffen.

(Starts with great surprise and backs into Josie's arms and couch R.)

HOHEN

There is my whole name, the first time in America. Oh, do not die or I will die, too.

(Crosses to her R.)

JOSIE

Don't talk nonsense, Baron. Neither of you are in any danger. Excuse us— We'll see the old folks a minute. Remember only a minute.

HOHEN

That's pretty quick, but I'll try.

(At look from Hohen., Josie calls "Charlie" who has been leaning on mantel. Chas. exits door L.3. after Josie.)

My darling I love you. I have thought about nothing but you ever since I have been away. I feared what I had done and given offense to your father. Death in our family detained me so long away. Oh, will you now be my husband — wife? I will love you as long as I live. Oh, darling, say now whether I can marry you or which, if you love me.

(On knees to her.)

FLORA

Oh, Mr. Hohenstauffen – the beautiful wild flower.

HOHEN

(Rises.)

For heaven sake do not mention botany, or it will take all summer once again. Und I have *blos ein* minute.

FLORA

(Rises slow, walk over to him.)

Ich liebe die.

HOHEN

Ach Himmel!

(Clasps her, kisses her gently, releases her again.)

Ach mein kleiner.

(In admiration and rapture.)

Oh, I love you so much I could kiss you into one thousand pieces— I could smash your dear head upon my breast.

(Attempts to embrace her again.)

FLORA

(A little frightened at his ferocity, evades him.)



HOHEN

Oh, are you sure. Is it all for love? Do you love me? I am such a great foolish fellow. Your mother have said last summer, you were so lacking in enthusiasm— that you were is icicles.

FLORA

(Deliberately takes his face between her hands and kisses him.)

Don't have any fears, my sweetheart. I love you, and I am so happy.

HOHEN

Oh, I could dance me myself with joy.

CHARLES

(Entering door L.3.E.)

I guess its all right now. Come in Mr. Randolph and Aunt Harriet.

(Enter Randolph, Josie, Harriet, and Poly. Josie goes R. Randolph C. Harriet L. Poly at back.)

RANDOLPH

How do you do, Mr. Hohenstauffen?

(Shakes hands.)

HOHEN

(L.C.)

Quite well, I thank you, quite well, I assure you.

HARRIET

My dear Baron, we are delighted to see you.)

(Bows very profoundly.)

HOHEN

And I you, Madam. My dear Mr. Randolph, there is one matter I should say to you. Oh, I am so glad to see you, Sir.

(Shakes hands again.)

CHARLES

Don't get excited in that quarter, Hohenstauffen. I have explained your mission here, and it's all right.

FLORA

Oh Charley.

HOHEN

Ach Himmel.

HARRIET

Yes Baron, Charles has told us everything, and we approve of your suit.

RANDOLPH

Mr. Hohenstauffen, you love my Flora May?

HOHEN

I do, Sir.

11. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

RANDOLPH

And she loves you. Be good to her for she is my whole life.

HOHEN

To do that, Sir, will only be happiness to me.

RANDOLPH

I feel assured of that, Sir.

HOHEN

I wish everybody happiness for a Christmas present.

(Crosses Randolph R. then to Josie and Charles.)

On the way, is something yet fixed all right here?

JOSIE

Oh yes, it's all arranged. I've given him permission to follow me the rest of my life. Give us your blessing, Baron.

HOHEN

Bless you my child. I understand now. That is the reward you were to receive for being my attorney.

CHARLES

Right you are. You are my third client.

RANDOLPH

(Who has been engaged L.)

Let me advise you to be careful, Mr. Hohenstauffen. He hanged one of the first two and got a life sentence for the other.

HOHEN

Well, he has not broken his record. He got a life sentence for me too.

FLORA

Oh, Sir.

HOHEN

To happiness, my love.

(She goes to him.)

JOSIE

What were you doing all these months, on the other side, Mr. Hohenstauffen?

HOHEN

My Uncle Carl Von Uhlman, of my mother's family in Stuttgart, died. I am the unworthy heir to my kind Uncle's estate. On the way, Mr. Randolph, the letter announcing his death addressed to me here at your home last summer, by some accident never reached me.

(Look form one to another. Poly laughs and goes up.)

FLORA

I still have the wild flowers you gave me that day.

HOHEN

Ach, wunderbar, wunderbar.

(Kisses her hand.)

I have me what here myself—

(Take out flag and wave it.)

O die sternbedeckte Fahne,

O lang soll sie wehen

Ueber das Land der Freien

Und Heimat der braven Maenner.

Die star stripe sprinkled banner as I sing it on the Rhein.

JOSIE

You are a German after my own heart.

HOHEN

I came close being arrested as a Socialist, where I was not taken for a lunatic.

(To Flora May.)

Will you please take off my arm?

(Gives arm and they go up.)

RANDOLPH

Come now, let us all drink an eggnog to the happy unions.

(At sideboard.)

HOHEN

Eggnog? What is the matter with those mint juleps?

(Poly gives two mugs to Flora, who takes one to Mrs. R, and keeps one.)

(Music.)

RANDOLPH

Oh, mint juleps. They are out of season now.

HOHEN

Now, that is agreed, as we arranged coming over. You will all spend next summer with me in Germany. And I will be revenged *auf* you for making fun out of my English last summer— I will shake the German flags at you.

(Poly passes mugs to Charlie and Josie R.)

JOSIE

Oh, ich ken dush sprucken.

HOHEN

Ach Gott.

(They laugh. He is horrified.)

What do you say, Mr. Randolph? We can take the old Emperor and a few strong fire-crackers with us.

(Takes mug.)

RANDOLPH

Well, we'll see about it. Are you all provided.

(Poly has passed around the mugs.)

13. The New Dominion 1894 by Clay Clement

POLY

Scuse me, Marse Egger, kin I fill one ob dem mugs an' drink to dat toas' ober heah on de side?

RANDOLPH

You may indeed, my faithful Poly.

(Hohen puts handful of money in Poly's tray as he turns to go up.)

HARRIET

So our dear little Flora will be a Baroness?

HOHEN

(Crosses to her)

Ah, Madam, no title will ever be half so dear to me as the one I gave her last summer in my botanical notes—

(Randolph comes down back to audience. Chas. and Josie come over. They form circle. Poly is up R. with mug not drinking, but contemplating the scene rapturously.)

FLORA

What was that?

HOHEN

My Virginia, Flora.

(Puts flag on her head and as all touch mugs)

PROSIT.

C U R T A I N .

(End)



SCENE IN "THE NEW DOMINION"—ACT IV.
Christmas Eve.

Mar 4, 1897 L to R: Uncle Poly-George Berry, Charles McVeigh-Carleton Macy, Mr. Edgar Norman Randolph-Jeffrey D. Williams, Mrs. Josephine Dulaney-Karra Kenwyn, Baron Hohenstauffen-Clay Clement, Miss. Flora May Randolph-Rolinda Bainbridge, Mrs. Harriet Randolph-Lettie Allen